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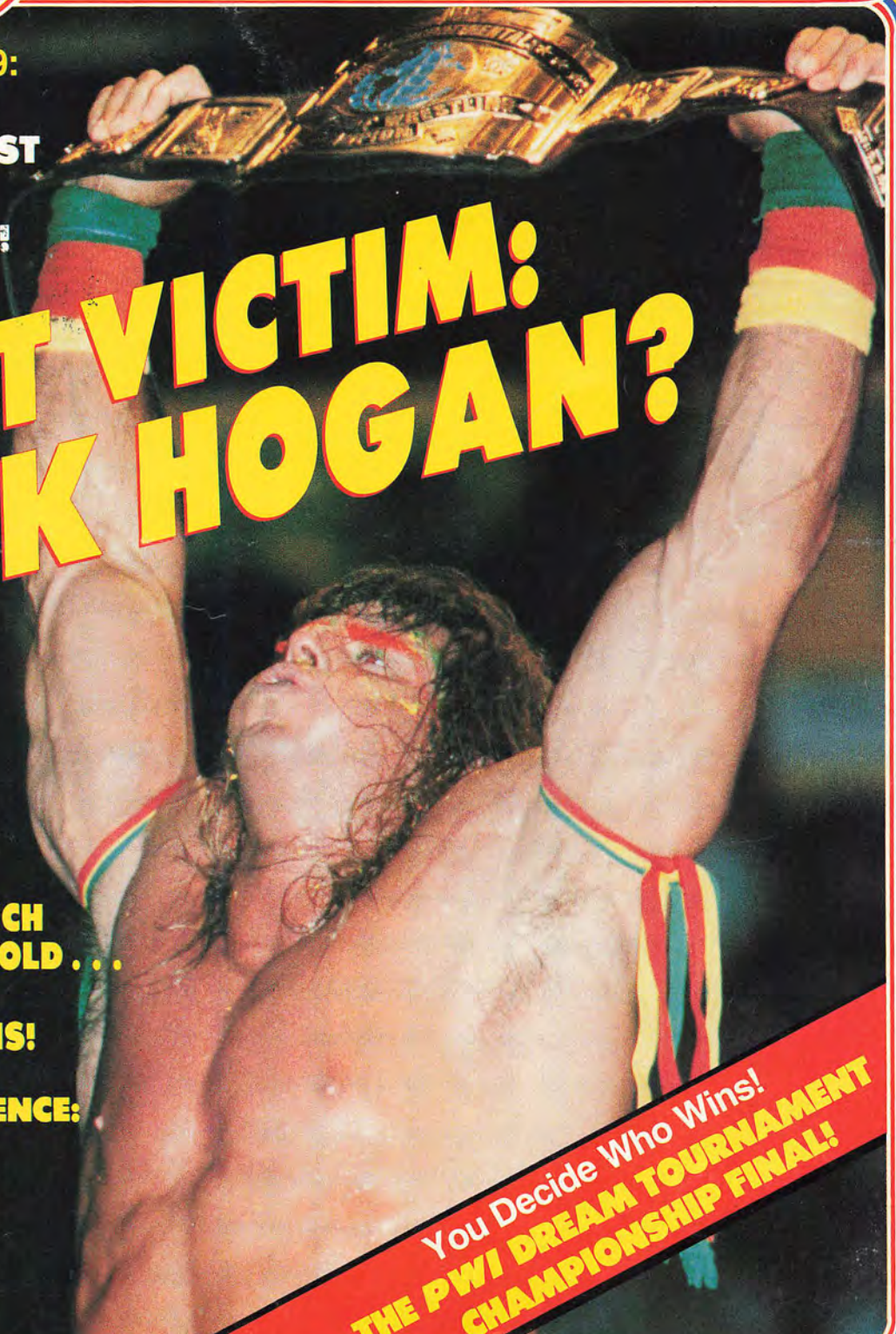
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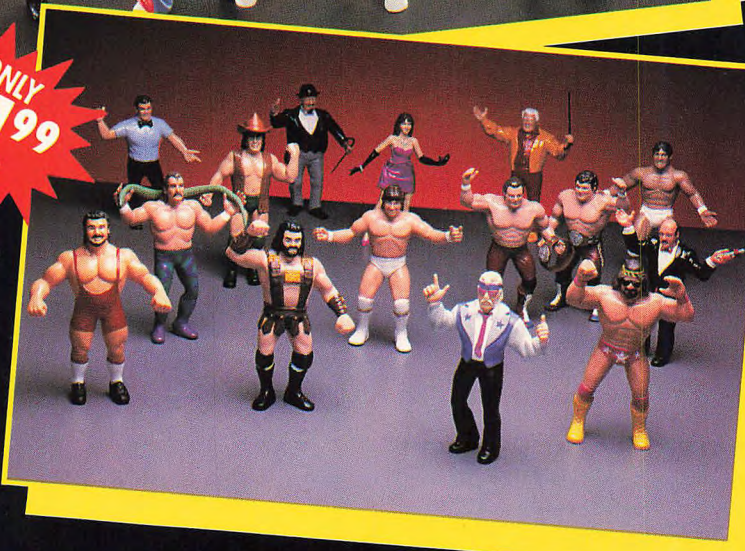
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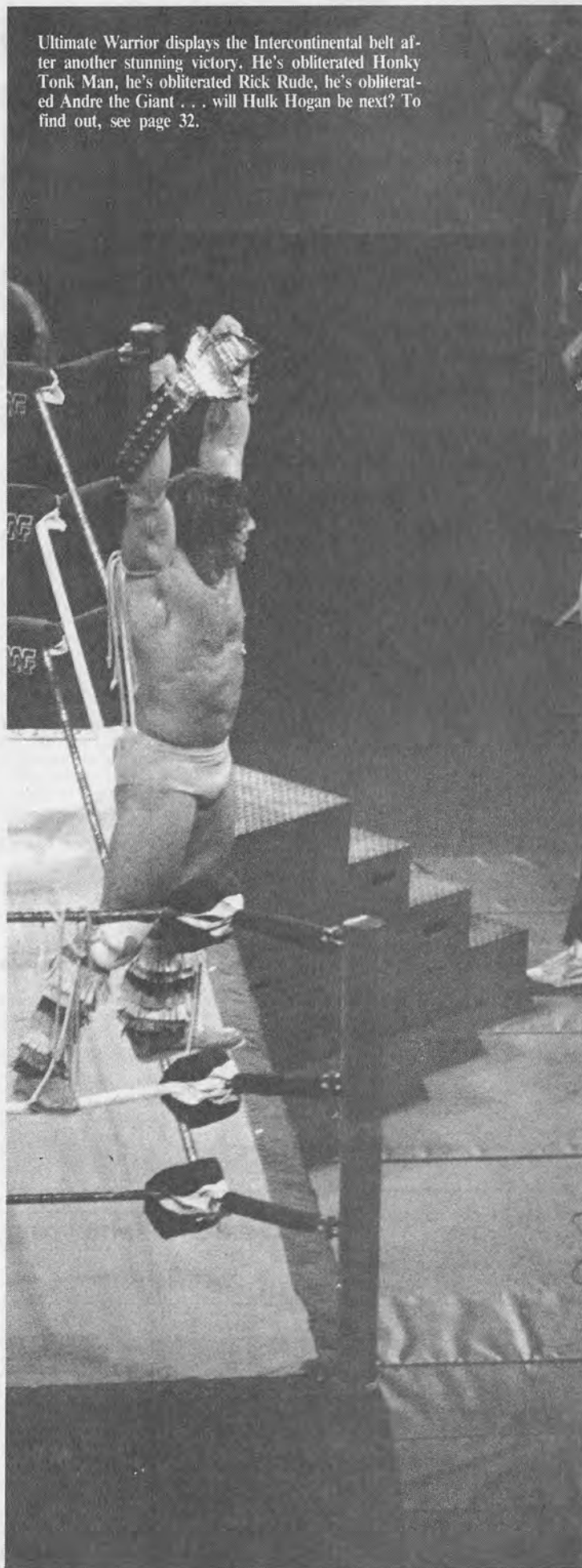
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Ultimate Warrior displays the Intercontinental belt after another stunning victory. He's obliterated Honky Tonk Man, he's obliterated Rick Rude, he's obliterated Andre the Giant ... will Hulk Hogan be next? To find out, see page 32.





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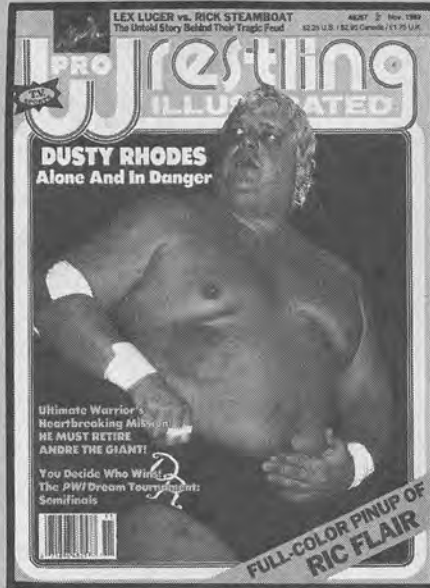
### DREAM TIME

As I have just finished reading your article, "Dusty Rhodes: Alone And In Danger" (November 1989), I think back to a few weeks ago, when Roddy Piper said this about Rhodes: "We've sat around and ate popcorn." He also said he thought Rhodes was a nice guy.

In light of Piper's recent comeback, it looks as if Dusty has found the friend he is so desperately in need of.

**DOUG FRYE**  
Connersville, IN

Is it any wonder Dusty has no friends in the WWF? He thinks he's so wonderful, but the fact is that he's way past his prime. Sure, he's pinned some pretty impressive wrestlers like Ted DiBiase and Big Bossman, but he won't be able to sustain that effort once he gets



bogged down in the WWF wars.  
**RANDALL McALISTER**  
New Orleans

Dusty Rhodes in danger? No way. A 20-year veteran like the "Dream" will always find what he

needs to take care of himself. If he has to cheat, lie, steal, beg, or borrow, Dusty will get the job done.

**THOMAS REED**  
Madison, WI

From the start, your headline is misleading. Dusty is not alone. He has thousands of fans behind him, backing his every move. Even more than Hulk Hogan, Dusty draws much inspiration from the fans. We were a big part of his winning all those titles, including three World championships in the NWA, and we'll help him reach even greater heights now.

Dusty is in danger, but so is everyone else who calls himself a wrestler. It's a dangerous occupation. Facing the obstacles day in and day out is all part of the game.

**JOANNE PASTORE**  
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### GREAT PRIZE

I entered the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* 10th anniversary sweep-



Chief Wahoo McDaniel's headdress was won by an appreciative Denise Sartain.

stakes and, to my pleasant surprise, I won Wahoo McDaniel's Indian headdress. Let me tell you that this is the most beautiful prize anyone could ever receive. I've never been so pleased. I'll always treasure this and I'll think of the great people at *PWI* and their commitment to the fans.

I am also part American Indian, so this prize has special meaning for me. Thanks again for the wonderful prize.

**DENISE SARTAIN**  
Covington, TN

### TALENT DRAIN

What is going on in the AWA? Every week it seems as if their talent is disappearing. People like Pat Tanaka, Tom Zenk, Wahoo McDaniel, Manny Fernandez, and who knows who else have disappeared from AWA TV shows.

The AWA should reinstate Jerry Lawler and also join the USWA and CWA in their interfederational matches. They were on the comeback trail late last year when they initiated that tactic.

(Continued on page 52)



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# RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter

**N**WA WORLD CHAMPION **Ric Flair** had plenty of reason to despise **Terry Funk** after the devious Texan nearly crippled him in May. But the "Nature Boy's" contempt for Funk reached an all-time high after the former champ again sadistically sneak-attacked him, this time at the conclusion of Clash of the Champions VIII: Fall Brawl '89 on September 12 in Columbia, South Carolina.

"Let's face it," said a recovered Flair a few days after he teamed with **Sting** to wrestle **The Great Muta** and **Dick Slater**. "Funk's tried to murder me twice. Now I'm on a mission that's more important than just defending my title. I'll retire that worthless old-timer and put him in a rest home forever."



Terry Funk kicks Ric Flair after having tied a plastic garbage bag over his head in his post-match attack at Clash of the Champions VIII. For his actions, Funk was suspended indefinitely.

The match itself, a wild brawl from the opening bell, ended in disqualification when Muta and Slater tossed referee **Tommy Young** from the ring. The rulebreakers proceeded to double-team Sting, and Slater severely injured Sting's right ankle by hitting it with Funk's branding iron.

The crowd was stunned when Funk, his right arm in a cast because of an injury suffered at the hands of Flair few days earlier, ran in from the dressing room and tried to smother the champion by putting a plastic

attack. The incensed Flair, however, may petition the NWA to get Funk back in action as soon as possible so that he can attempt to gain revenge.

Another Clash controversy occurred when **The Freebirds**, **Jim Garvin** and **Michael Hayes**, retained the NWA World tag team title by defeating **Rick** and **Scott Steiner**. But the actual reason The Freebirds were able to win was because either **Missy Hyatt**, the Steiners' manager, or **Robin Green**, Rick's girlfriend, tripped Scott as he was re-



In this exclusive photo by Bill Apter, Scott Steiner accuses Robin Green of tripping him and causing the Steiners to lose at the Clash VIII, but Rick Steiner defends his girlfriend.

trash bag over his head and tying it around his neck. Flair lost consciousness, but was resuscitated by **Brian Pillman**. Amazingly, Flair was back wrestling only two days later.

The aftermath of the match was far-reaching. Sting was forced out of action for several cards when doctors determined that his ankle might require surgery. But the biggest news is that Funk was suspended by NWA officials indefinitely for his part in the

bounding off the ropes. As Scott fell, Hayes caught him in a DDT and scored the pinfall. Some ringsiders claim it was Hyatt who tripped Scott, but others insist that Green did it—including Scott.

"I can't believe I was victimized by my own corner people," complained Scott after the bout. "Rick naturally sticks up for Robin, but I don't think he should trust her anymore. I'm real-

(Continued on page 60)



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from the desk of . . .

Stuart M. Saks

For the second straight month, I, "Masochist Man" Stu Saks, will use this space to print a piece of scathing mail from an irate reader. While not intending to intrude upon Eddie Ellner's territory, I feel obligated to print this sizzling correspondence from Hyattsville, Maryland's David Marks:

Dear Mr. Saks,

After going through the November 1989 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, the only place I can find where this letter should be sent is "Between Falls," but it is intended for you, and intended to be printed in a future edition of this magazine. "Between Falls" doesn't lend itself to a response by any of the editors, and I would like to see a response published along with this letter.

On pages 56 and 57 of the November '89 edition, I see where you, Mr. Saks, have ignorantly turned against Dusty Rhodes, the working man's champion. I say in ignorance because you are obviously one of those vice presidents who has no idea of the life of a working man. If you had understood the life of the working man, you wouldn't have turned so viciously against the "American Dream." Perhaps if the hotshot sponsors understood the life of the working man, they wouldn't have been so offended by the "Son of a Plumber" video.

Dusty Rhodes, the working man's champion, came into the WWF to represent the working man. The working man who has to get down into the dirt, the grease, and the grime. The working man who works day and night to support his family. The working man that people like the "Million-Dollar Man," and now you, have tried to humiliate in public.

Dusty Rhodes, the working man's champion, has graphically shown the life of the working man. You see, hotshot, I, too, am the son of a plumber. I, too, have had to take out toilets filled with "doo-doo" and replace them with new ones. I, too, have come out "... with my arms a dis-stink-tive shade of brown." Dusty Rhodes not only uses his own unique sense of humor in all his videos, but he effectively shows the life of the working man. If you weren't such a snotty-nosed executive, maybe you'd appreciate what those videos represented. If you were a working man, you'd understand why those of us who are, are tired of little snots like you and Ted DiBiase trying to give the world the false impression that you're better than we are. And, if it weren't for the plumbers, and the sons of plumbers, idiots like you and Ted DiBiase wouldn't have executive keys to those fancy washrooms

(Continued on page 58)



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# NO HOLDS BARRED

with David Rosenbaum

**T**IME TO UPDATE some past columns, both from *Inside Wrestling* ("Behind The Dressing Room Door") and *PWI*. There have been a lot of changes recently in wrestling, and in the world. Here's what's going on.

\*\*\*

*August 1989, Inside Wrestling, Meeting Otto Wanz in Budapest.*

These are historic and happy times in Hungary. In September, the Hungarian government decided to knock down the Iron Curtain and allow East Germans to cross over into Austria (most of these refugees are headed for West Germany; eventually, the Berlin Wall could be knocked down).

When I was in Budapest back in March, there was no sign that this earth-shattering event was about to take place. Budapest seemed dirty, backward, and beyond help. The Communist influence was evident, and Wanz talked to me about how Hungarians look at him and see hope for the future.

That hope has been fulfilled. Certainly, there are difficult times ahead for all of these refugees, just like there were trying times for immigrants to the United States at the turn of the century. But they have made their own de-



Jason the Terrible springs from the turnbuckles onto a fallen Johnny Smith. Hopefully, David Rosenbaum writes, Jason isn't coming back too soon after breaking his leg in six places.

cision—a decision that at one time they couldn't make—and the choice was for freedom.

\*\*\*

*November 1989, Pro Wrestling Illustrated, Davey Boy Smith and Jason the Terrible sidelined because of injuries sustained in July 4 automobile accident.*

Davey Boy's back, and Jason the Terrible is on the way! That might sound like good news, but if you read that column, you learned that few wrestlers have medical benefits and are often

forced back into the ring before their injuries have a chance to heal.

Jason, who broke his leg in six places, was due back to the Stampede area in early October. It's extremely hard to believe that Jason recovered from a broken leg in merely three months; harder to believe that his leg is strong enough to withstand punishment in the ring. I hope Jason and Davey Boy haven't pushed their return, but I fear they may have.

\*\*\*

*October 1989, Pro Wrestling Illustrated, No Holds Barred, and Dusty Rhodes comes to the WWF.*

(Continued on page 54)





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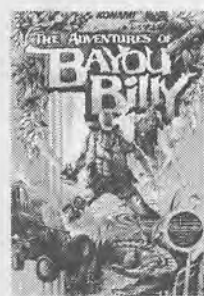
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# WFOCUS

With CRAIG PETERS

## PREDICTIONS '90—TIME TO LOOK AHEAD

The March 1990 year-end double issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* will feature a special section dedicated to your predictions of what will occur in wrestling in 1990. To do the section, of course, we need your help!

What will happen in wrestling in 1990? What champions will endure, and which will be unseated? Who will be injured? What strange things will occur that nobody else can imagine? We want to know!

The most interesting and intriguing predictions will be presented in the year-end issue, which goes on sale January 2, 1990.

Send all your predictions to: Predictions 1990 c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571.



*The Ultimate Warrior*

## WHO READS PWI?

About a year and a half ago, I conducted a poll to determine who reads *PWI*. Now it's time to update the poll—with your help. Just fill in the page at the right and send it to: In Focus Survey, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

Here at *PWI*, we firmly believe that it's the involvement of the readers that makes the magazine what it is. Your participation in this poll will help us to maintain the level of quality and excellence that you've come to expect from *PWI*.

As something of an incentive, 50 completed polls will be chosen at random, and those 50 readers will each receive a free *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* bumper sticker.

Results of the survey will be printed in a future issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*.



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- ☐ 3 or less  
☐ 4-7  
☐ 8-11  
☐ every month

Wrestling magazines you buy and read regularly other than *PWI*:

- ☐ *The Wrestler*  
☐ *Inside Wrestling*  
☐ *Sports Review Wrestling*  
☐ *Wrestling 89*  
☐ *Wrestling Superstars*  
☐ *Wrestling USA*  
☐ *Wrestling Classics*  
☐ Others \_\_\_\_\_

How many wrestling magazines do you buy each month?

- ☐ one  
☐ two  
☐ three  
☐ four  
☐ five  
☐ more than five

Do you receive the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly* newsletter?

- ☐ yes  
☐ no

Your age:

- ☐ 10 or under  
☐ 10-13  
☐ 14-16  
☐ 17-19  
☐ 20-25  
☐ 26-30  
☐ 31-40  
☐ over 40

Your yearly household income averages:

- ☐ less than \$20,000  
☐ \$20,000-\$30,000  
☐ \$30,000-\$40,000  
☐ \$40,000-\$50,000  
☐ more than \$50,000

Is your home wired for cable television?

- ☐ yes  
☐ no

Wrestling federations you watch regularly on television:

- ☐ WWF  
☐ NWA  
☐ AWA  
☐ USWA  
☐ CWA  
☐ Stampede  
☐ other \_\_\_\_\_

Your favorite wrestling federation:

- ☐ WWF  
☐ NWA  
☐ AWA  
☐ USWA  
☐ CWA  
☐ Stampede  
☐ other \_\_\_\_\_

How many hours per week do you spend watching wrestling on television?

- ☐ less than 3  
☐ 3-6  
☐ 7-10  
☐ more than 10

How many live cards did you attend during the past 12 months?

- ☐ less than 3  
☐ 3-6  
☐ 7-10  
☐ more than 10

Do you purchase souvenirs at the arenas (other than programs):

- ☐ yes  
☐ no

How many pay-per-view wrestling events have you purchased in the past 12 months

- ☐ none  
☐ one  
☐ two  
☐ three  
☐ four  
☐ more than four

Do you own:

- ☐ record turntable  
☐ cassette player  
☐ portable cassette player  
☐ compact disc player  
☐ portable compact disc player  
☐ VHS or Beta videorecorder  
☐ home computer  
☐ Nintendo TV game system  
☐ Sega TV game system  
☐ Atari TV game system  
☐ Gemini TV game system  
☐ other TV game system \_\_\_\_\_

How many record albums or cassettes do you plan to purchase in the next three months?

- ☐ less than 3  
☐ 4-7  
☐ 8-12  
☐ more than 12

If you own a TV game system, how many game cartridges do you own?

- ☐ less than 3  
☐ 4-7  
☐ 8-12  
☐ more than 12

If you own a videorecorder, how many wrestling videotapes do you own?

- ☐ less than 3  
☐ 4-7  
☐ 8-12  
☐ more than 12

Your three favorite wrestlers are:

- 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Other than wrestling magazines, what magazines do you read each month?

- 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Other than wrestling, what are your three favorite television programs?

- 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
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What is your favorite column in *PWI*? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your least-favorite column in *PWI*? \_\_\_\_\_

Other comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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# LOOKING AT...



**I**T USED TO be that whenever somebody mentioned The Samoan Swat Team, I'd think of Samu and Fatu, two of the most ruthless and talented animals in the game. You're talking about two guys who eat with their hands and like their meat raw.

Now, whenever anybody brings up Samu and Fatu, I can't help but think of Tofu. For those of you wondering what the heck this old man is talking about, Tofu isn't the third Samoan. He isn't Samu or Fatu's father. He isn't even their manager; that responsibility was reserved for Paul E. Dangerously, who now seems to be history as far as the Swats are concerned.

Tofu is that chunky white stuff that tastes like nothing; eat it and you'd think a bunch of worms had just crawled into your mouth. But, supposedly, it's good for you, and if you whip it up with some tamari sauce, it actually tastes like hamburgers. At least that's what they say. Had a tofu burger the other day and the only thing it did was give me the urge to walk into the nearest McDonald's and order a double quarter-pounder with cheese. Being on a low-cholesterol diet is about as much fun as watching arena workers take apart the ring after a night's card.

One thing you just know, though, is that Samu and Fatu have never seen a hunk of tofu in their lives. Count them among the lucky ones, but a few years down the line, some Samoan witch doctor is going to tell them about all this fat clogging up their arteries. Then they won't seem too lucky anymore.

Besides the similarities in the way the words sound, that's why tofu reminds me of Samu and Fatu. Maybe with a little tofu now and then, they'd gain some stamina and have a shot at beating The Road Warriors. Last time I saw Animal eat meat, he was keeping it down to three-



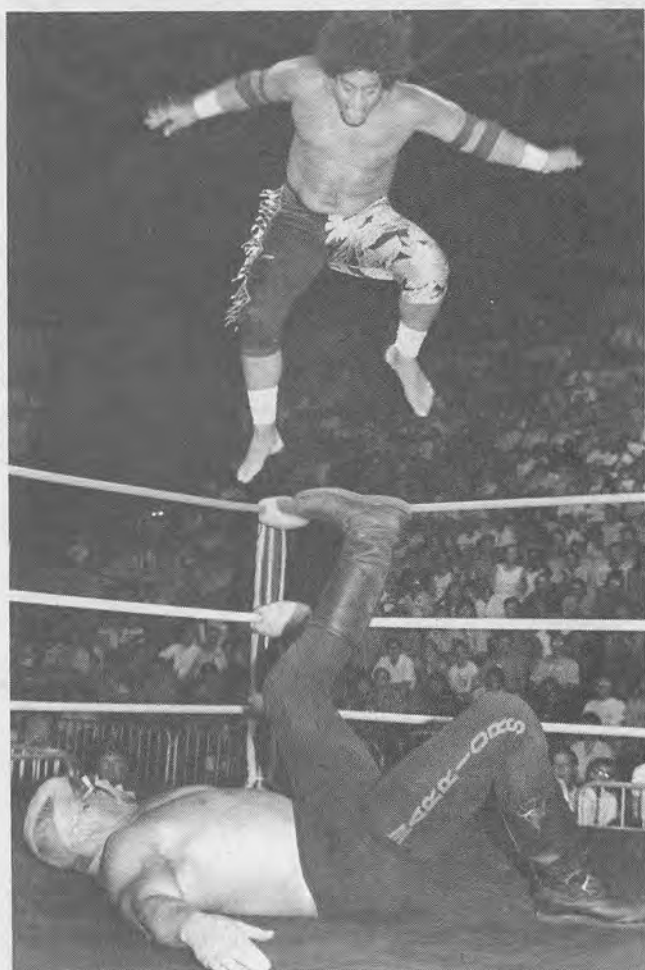
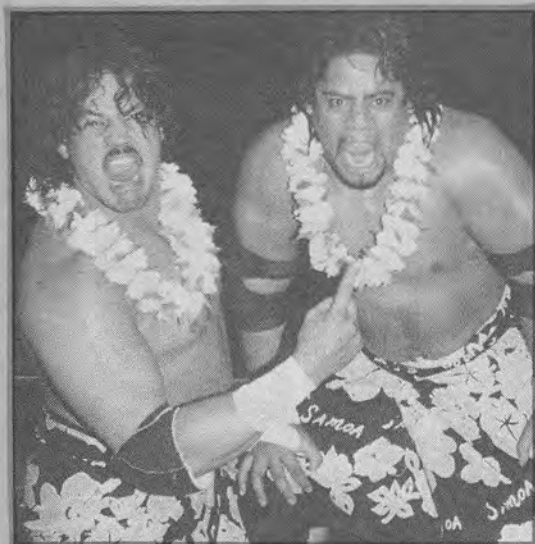
Fatu of The Samoan Swat Team whips Road Warrior Animal across the ring. Matt Brock speculates that the Samoans might be more successful if they ate a more sensible diet. Of course, the Samoans aren't about to let anyone tell them how to eat.

ounce servings with plenty of pasta and salads; "the darker the leaves, the better," he said.

Going off the beaten track again, you say? Well, put it this way: Every match, every championship won or lost, can be traced back to the wrestlers' diets. If they eat



# THE SAMOAN SWAT TEAM



Fatu leaps from the top turnbuckle right onto Hawk's boot. The Samoans dumped Paul E. Dangerously as their manager presumably because he hasn't led them to the title.

It's interesting to note that these crazy, barbarian, foreign jungle tag teams are always a force in wrestling but never seem to win the big ones. Look at Abdullah the Butcher. He rarely loses and has beaten some of the toughest men in the sport. But his idea of a midnight snack is eating I-95 road kill. He can't make it over the top because his body won't let him. Same went for The Mongols, good ol' Gito and Bepo. Ditto for The Canadian Wolfman. Raw meat just doesn't make for a healthy diet, and I've never heard of a neanderthal that restricts himself to three-ounce servings. It just doesn't happen.

Samu and Fatu are a bit more human than that, but they're a long way from tofu. To look at them, you'd think they were in decent shape. They're both a bit muscular, and the combined weight of the team is under 550 pounds. They're even one of the fastest teams I've ever seen. I mean, these guys can fly. But I've seen them eat, and it's not a pretty sight. Samu and Fatu have everything right except for the insides of their bodies.

"We eat what we want, Brock," Samu shouted when I brought this up to him. "What the heck are you, some kind of doctor?"

"Don't call me Tofu," Fatu said when I got his name mixed up. "Paul, get this freak out of here."

Dangerously then escorted me to a side room, where he tried to explain that the Swats eat whatever they want, when they want it. "As you can tell," Dangerously said, "Samu and Fatu don't like to be told what to do."

I can understand that. They grew up in the jungle, where they did whatever they wanted to do whenever they wanted to do it. But add tofu to the tag team of Samu and Fatu, and you might have NWA World tag team champions.

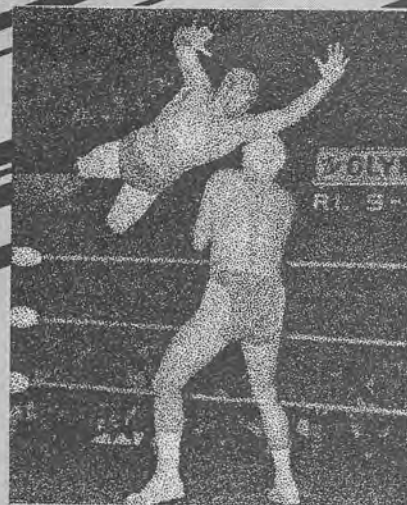
As it stands now, they have no chance of getting past The Road Warriors. Simply put, they're getting their butts kicked. □

badly, they're not going to do much winning. If they eat well, they're going to be in better shape, and in better shape to win. You don't see Ric Flair eating garbage. Same can be said for Rick Steiner. But Samu and Fatu see a dog or a cat crossing the street and start to salivate.

BY EDDIE ELLNER

# off the Top Rope

If you wish to contribute to Ellner's mailbag,  
send your letters to:



**TOP ROPE, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571**

*[Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Eddie Ellner himself. They do not necessarily represent the editorial views of this magazine.]*

**T**HE LATEST MARKET research shows that pro wrestling's popularity is again on the increase. Via network, cable, closed-circuit, and pay-per-view television, more people have greater access to the sport. Promoters report a rise in attendance. All indications point toward a continued resurgence. My sources claim, however, a growing dissatisfaction with the current state of pro wrestling. These sources—"Rapid" Ralph the efficiency expert, Lenny the Trainer, "Slick" Sheldon Kawer, "Dapper" Danny Bradshaw, "Animated" Anne Farber, Captain Pete—the regular, 20-year-plus wrestling fans who eat, drink, live, and die the sport, don't know if they can stand things much longer.

Why, they ask, was Ric Flair exempted from the rule stating champions must defend their titles within 30 days? Why can Hulk Hogan hit Honky Tonk Man over the head with a guitar in plain sight of the referee and not get disqualified? Why are animals and valets afforded equal billing with the wrestlers? Why is Vince McMahon slowly able to acquire the country's best talent and why isn't anyone trying to stop him?



Dusty Rhodes orders one more pizza to go. Legal threats don't faze me; my attacks on Rhodes will continue until he does all of us the favor of retiring.

"I might have to move to Japan," Rapid Ralph sighed, reflecting the opinions of everyone pining for a "regular" wrestling match—the Flair-Funk, Flair-Steamboat kind—that fans now get to see maybe a dozen times a year, and never in the WWF. And as if that isn't enough to stagger you, read this next letter sent to Bill Apter, courtesy of roly-poly Ronald Hadiund, the Council Bluffs Restaurant Association's favorite son.

Dear Bill,

As a fat person, I am very angry about the attacks on Dusty Rhodes by Eddie Ellner . . . Ellner is lucky that Rhodes hasn't filed a defamation suit—he has that right.

I belong to a group called Heartland W.A.R.F.A., the local chapter of N.A.A.F.A., the National Association for the Advancement of Fat Acceptance. We of Heartland are fighting  
*(Continued on page 56)*



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# Wrestling

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**SUMMERSLAM '89**

and

**THE GREAT AMERICAN BASH**



Accompanying the section will be an in-depth examination of these two magnificent events, providing unique historical perspective on how they affect professional wrestling as a whole.

This special edition of *Sports Review Wrestling* is cover-dated December 1989 and goes on sale October 24. Avoid a sellout and get to your newsstand early—this is one landmark magazine you won't want to miss!

**The best keeps getting better—because you won't settle for less!**

# PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

T.V. SPORTS

## PWI's TOP 10



Randy Savage

### TOP 10

- 1 HULK HOGAN**  
302, Venice Beach, CA  
WWF World champion
- 2 RIC FLAIR**  
243, Minneapolis, MN  
NWA World champion
- 3 LEX LUGER**  
268, Chicago, IL  
U.S. heavyweight champion
- 4 THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**  
280, Queens, NY  
WWF Intercontinental champion
- 5 THE GREAT MUTA**  
245, Tokyo, Japan  
NWA TV champion
- 6 RANDY SAVAGE**  
245, Sarasota, FL  
No. 2 contender: WWF title
- 7 JERRY LAWLER**  
234, Memphis, TN  
USWA champion
- 8 STING**  
260, Venice Beach, CA  
No. 1 contender: NWA TV title
- 9 LARRY ZBYSKO**  
248, Pittsburgh, PA  
AWA World champion
- 10 LARRY CAMERON**  
280, Chicago, IL  
Stampede North American champion

### TAG TEAMS

- 1 TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON**  
Combined weight: 484 pounds  
WWF World tag team champions
- 2 MICHAEL HAYES & JIM GARVIN**  
Combined weight: 490 pounds  
NWA World tag team champions
- 3 THE ROAD WARRIORS**  
Combined weight: 567 pounds  
No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 4 DEMOLITION**  
Combined weight: 585 pounds  
No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 5 THE SKYSCRAPERS**  
Combined weight: 618 pounds  
No. 2 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 6 THE HART FOUNDATION**  
Combined weight: 515 pounds  
No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 7 THE BUSHWHACKERS**  
Combined weight: 542 pounds  
No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 8 THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**  
Combined weight: 458 pounds  
No. 3 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 9 MIKE ENOS & WAYNE BLOOM**  
Combined weight: 518 pounds  
No. 1 contenders: AWA tag team title
- 10 THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**  
Combined weight: 453 pounds  
CWA tag team champions

### NWA

**World Champion:**  
**RIC FLAIR**

243, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—LEX LUGER**  
268, Chicago, IL
- 2—THE GREAT MUTA**  
245, Tokyo, Japan
- 3—STING**  
260, Venice Beach, CA
- 4—DICK SLATER**  
235, Tampa, FL
- 5—TOMMY RICH**  
248, Hendersonville, TN
- 6—STEVE WILLIAMS**  
265, Norman, OK
- 7—MIKE ROTUNDO**  
245, Syracuse, NY
- 8—BRIAN PILLMAN**  
226, Cincinnati, OH
- 9—EDDIE GILBERT**  
222, Lexington, TN
- 10—SID VICIOUS**  
319, West Memphis, AK

### WWF

**World Champion:**  
**HULK HOGAN**

302, Venice Beach, CA

- 1—THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**  
280, Queens, NY
- 2—RANDY SAVAGE**  
245, Sarasota, FL
- 3—RICK RUDE**  
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 4—BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**  
273, San Francisco, CA
- 5—DUSTY RHODES**  
302, Austin, TX
- 6—HACKSAW DUGGAN**  
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 7—JIMMY SNUKA**  
250, Fiji Islands
- 8—CURT HENNIG**  
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 9—RODDY PIPER**  
231, Glasgow, Scotland
- 10—RICK MARTEL**  
236, Quebec City, Quebec

### AWA

**World Champion:**  
**LARRY ZBYSKO**

248, Pittsburgh, PA

- 1—GREG GAGNE**  
220, Robbinsdale, MN
- 2—SGT. SLAUGHTER**  
310, Parris Island, SC
- 3—BARON VON RASCHKE**  
271, W. Berlin, Germany
- 4—ADNAN AL-KAISSIE**  
235, Iraq
- 5—JONNIE STEWART**  
242, Pacific Palisades, CA
- 6—PAUL DIAMOND**  
230, Thunder Bay, Ontario
- 7—AKIO SATO**  
234, Tokyo, Japan
- 8—DERRICK DUKES**  
235, Boston, MA
- 9—KEN PATERA**  
256, Portland, OR
- 10—THE RUSSIAN BRUTE**  
285, Moscow, Russia

### USWA

**USWA Champion:**  
**JERRY LAWLER**

234, Memphis, TN

- 1—ERIC EMBRY**  
225, Lexington, KY
- 2—KERRY VON ERICH**  
260, Denton, TX
- 3—P.Y. CHU-HI**  
307, Jackson, TN
- 4—TARAS BULBA**  
251, Mongolia
- 5—CHRIS ADAMS**  
228, Stratford, England
- 6—AL PEREZ**  
238, Tampa, FL
- 7—JIMMY JACK FUNK**  
243, Portland, OR
- 8—JEFF JARRETT**  
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 9—SHEIK BRADDOCK**  
244, Dallas, TX
- 10—MATT BORNE**  
235, Portland, OR



# OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

## MOST POPULAR

- 1 HULK HOGAN**  
302, Venice Beach, CA  
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
- 2 RIC FLAIR**  
243, Minneapolis, MN  
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
- 3 THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**  
280, Queens, NY  
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
- 4 STING**  
260, Venice Beach, CA  
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
- 5 BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**  
273, San Francisco, CA  
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
- 6 DUSTY RHODES**  
302, Austin, TX  
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
- 7 RICK STEINER**  
248, Detroit, MI  
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular
- 8 RODDY PIPER**  
231, Glasgow, Scotland  
Last month: unrated
- 9 HACKSAW DUGGAN**  
280, Glens Falls, NY  
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular
- 10 ERIC EMBRY**  
225, Lexington, KY  
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular

## MOST HATED

- 1 TERRY FUNK**  
247, Amarillo, TX  
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
- 2 RANDY SAVAGE**  
245, Sarasota, FL  
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
- 3 RICK RUDE**  
246, Robbinsdale, MN  
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
- 4 LEX LUGER**  
268, Chicago, IL  
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
- 5 THE GREAT MUTA**  
245, Tokyo, Japan  
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated
- 6 ANDRE THE GIANT**  
497, Grenoble, France  
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated
- 7 LARRY ZBYSKO**  
248, Pittsburgh, PA  
Last month: No. 7 Most Hated
- 8 P.Y. CHU-HI**  
307, Jackson, TN  
Last month: unrated
- 9 JERRY LAWLER**  
234, Memphis, TN  
Last month: No. 9 Most Hated
- 10 DENNIS CONDREY**  
256, Marietta, GA  
Last month: No. 10 Most Hated

For period ended September 15, 1989

## CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

### SINGLES

- 1—HULK HOGAN .....84 points
- 2—RANDY SAVAGE .....79 points
- 3—RIC FLAIR .....69 points
- 4—LEX LUGER .....63 points
- 5—RICK STEAMBOAT .....49 points

### TAG TEAMS

- 1—DEMOLITION .....91 points
- 2—THE ROAD WARRIORS .....89 points
- 3—BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE .....43 points
- 4—TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON ..40 points
- 5—SAMOAN SWAT TEAM .....38 points

## STAMPEDE

**North American Champion:**  
**LARRY CAMERON**  
280, Chicago, IL

- 1—GAMA SINGH**  
220, Karachi, Pakistan
- 2—JOHNNY SMITH**  
235, Manchester, England
- 3—CHRIS BENOIT**  
218, Edmonton, Alberta
- 4—BRUCE HART**  
211, Calgary, Alberta
- 5—DAVEY BOY SMITH**  
245, Leeds, England
- 6—JOHNATHAN HOLLIDAY**  
232, Pemberton, NJ
- 7—ANGEL OF DEATH**  
310, Los Angeles, CA
- 8—STEVE RAY**  
227, Kansas City, KS
- 9—BEEF WELLINGTON**  
225, Lloydminster, Alberta
- 10—DYNAMITE KID**  
228, Manchester, England

## CWA

**CWA Champion:**  
**BLACK BART**  
261, Pampa, TX

- 1—JERRY LAWLER**  
234, Memphis, TN
- 2—TEXAS DIRT**  
224, parts unknown
- 3—KERRY VON ERICH**  
260, Denton, TX
- 4—DUSTIN RHODES**  
254, Austin, TX
- 5—JEFF JARRETT**  
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 6—BILL DUNDEE**  
228, Manchester, England
- 7—BUDDY LANDELL**  
236, Los Angeles, CA
- 8—DIRTY WHITE BOY**  
235, Bucksport, TN
- 9—BILLY TRAVIS**  
218, Houston, TX
- 10—RICK MORTON**  
228, Memphis, TN

**ACW:** ACW champion—Colt Steel; 1—Ken Shamrock; 2—Nelson Royal; 3—Todd Champion; 4—L.A. Stevens; 5—Samoan Tai; 6—Sheinobi; 7—Tommy Angel; 8—Ricky Nelson; 9—David Isley; 10—Tommy Seabolt.

**CWF:** Continental champion—Dennis Condrey; 1—Kerry Von Erich; 2—Wendell Cooley; 3—Adrian Street; 4—Terrance M. Garvin; 5—Jerry Stubbs; 6—Todd Morton; 7—Dan Davis; 8—Bill Dundee; 9—Mike Davis; 10—Don Harris.

**FCW:** FCW champion—Steve Keirn; 1—Comrade Busich; 2—Ho Chi Win; 3—Kendall Windham; 4—Jumbo Barretta; 5—Al Perez; 6—Jim Backlund; 7—Brett Sawyer; 8—Italian Stallion; 9—Frankie Lancaster; 10—Dennis Knight.

**ICW:** ICW champion—Tony Atlas; 1—Joe Savoldi; 2—Kendall Windham; 3—Vic Steamboat; 4—Ken Patera; 5—Mike Sharpe; 6—Ivan Putski; 7—Col. DeBeers; 8—Tom Brandi; 9—Scott Putski; 10—Mike Kahlua.

**PNW:** PNW champion—Scotty the Body; 1—Carl Styles; 2—The Grappler; 3—Art Barr; 4—Bill Francis; 5—Rip Oliver; 6—Rex King; 7—Steve Doll; 8—Nord the Barbarian; 9—Bryan Adams; 10—Al Madril.

**WWC:** WWC champion—Steve Strong; 1—Carlos Colon; 2—Ivan Koloff; 3—TNT; 4—Invader I; 5—Jim Valiant; 6—Abdullah the Butcher; 7—Original TNT; 8—White Angel; 9—Kareem Muhammad; 10—Jeff Jarrett.

# RATINGS ANALYSIS

**Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating nearly 200 wrestlers in 18 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.**

**Mini-Tracking Trends.** A brief look at the Top 10 and Tag Teams ratings.

**Top 10.** Ultimate Warrior regained the Intercontinental title from Rick Rude at SummerSlam '89, and followed it up with a series of awesome victories over Andre the Giant. He reenters the ratings at number four ... The Great Muta is in line for a shot at NWA World champ Ric Flair and moves up four spots to number nine ... Sting has taken several beatings from Muta and drops three spots to number eight.

**Tag Teams.** The Road Warriors have been devastating in their victories over Samoan Swat Team and move up a notch to number three ... The Swats drop out of the ratings ... Sid Vicious and Danny Spivey—a.k.a. The Sky-scrapers—are the new impact team in the NWA. They move in at number five ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express won the CWA tag belts and move in at number 10; Mark Starr and Chris Champion, the victims, drop out.

**Double your fun ...** with Most Popular and Most Hated tag teams. The policy at *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* concerning our Most Popular and Most Hated ratings is not to split tag teams. Therefore, you'll never see Hawk or Animal in the Most Popular ratings unless they wrestle on their own. Conversely, Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson aren't in our Most Hated ratings because they only wrestle as a team.

But we realize that fans hate and love tag teams as much as they do the singles wrestlers. So, with that in mind, we've compiled top five Most Popular and Most Hated ratings. A brief analysis follows.

## **MOST POPULAR TAG TEAMS**

- 1—THE ROAD WARRIORS
- 2—DEMOLITION
- 3—THE BUSHWHACKERS
- 4—THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS
- 5—THE ROCKERS

## **MOST HATED TAG TEAMS**

- 1—TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON
- 2—MICHAEL HAYES & JIM GARVIN
- 3—SAMOAN SWAT TEAM
- 4—MIKE ENOS & WAYNE BLOOM
- 5—JIMMY GOLDEN & BRIAN LEE

**Analysis. Most Popular:** It doesn't matter what The Road Warriors do. They generate incredible excitement whether as rulebreakers or fan favorites ... Demolition, once criticized for being Road Warrior imitations, have carved their own niche in the tag team picture. Ax and Smash are, in fact, very different from the Warriors and the fans have recognized this ... It's hard to believe that Butch Miller and Luke Williams—The Bushwhackers—have gained so much popularity. As The Shepherders, there were few teams hated more ... Bobby Eaton and Stan Lane—a.k.a. The Midnight Express—are basically riding manager Jim Cornette's wave of popularity ... Shawn Michaels and Marty Jannetty—The Rockers—have gained a legion of fans with their exciting, high-flying style.



**Jim Garvin**

**Most Hated:** Not much has changed since Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson went to the WWF. They're still one of the greatest tag teams in the world. And they're still the most hated ... Michael Hayes and Jim Garvin—a.k.a. The Freebirds—are devious outlaws who lust for violence and money ... Samoan Swat Team will stop at nothing to win matches and anger fans ... Mike Enos and Wayne Bloom could be popular if not for manager Johnny Valiant (and their penchant for crippling fan favorites) ... Continental tag champs Jimmy Golden and Brian Lee have shown absolute disregard for the rules and the fans.

**Weekly ratings!** That's right, weekly ratings, as they happen. And you can have them with a subscription to *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly!* Each week, we'll provide ratings for the NWA, WWF, AWA, CWA, USWA, and Stampede, as well as Top 10 and Tag Team ratings. And, because there's less than a week between press time and the day you receive your *PWI Weekly*, you'll be up-to-date on current trends in the sport.

**Til next time ...** when we go further in-depth with Tracking Trends and come up with a surprise or two, we'd like to know what's on your mind. The address for mail is: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*; Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY 11571.



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### THE VON ERICHS: FRONT ROW RINGSIDE

Texas' "First Family of Professional Wrestling" is fully profiled on this magnificent 70-minute collectors' video.

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### VON ERICH FAN BONUS!

*The Von Erichs: A Family Album* is a magnificent 128-page 8½x11 hardcover volume packed with rare photos and inside information. Over 100 black and white photos

(many from personal Von Erich family scrapbooks and never before seen!) and 32 pages of full-color tell the Von Erich family story in stunning detail. It's a book you'll be proud to display on your bookshelf for many years to come.

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MO/YR

# KERRY VON ERICH VS. THE CLAWHOLD...

Taras Bulba is certainly not one of the most well-known wrestlers in the world. Still,

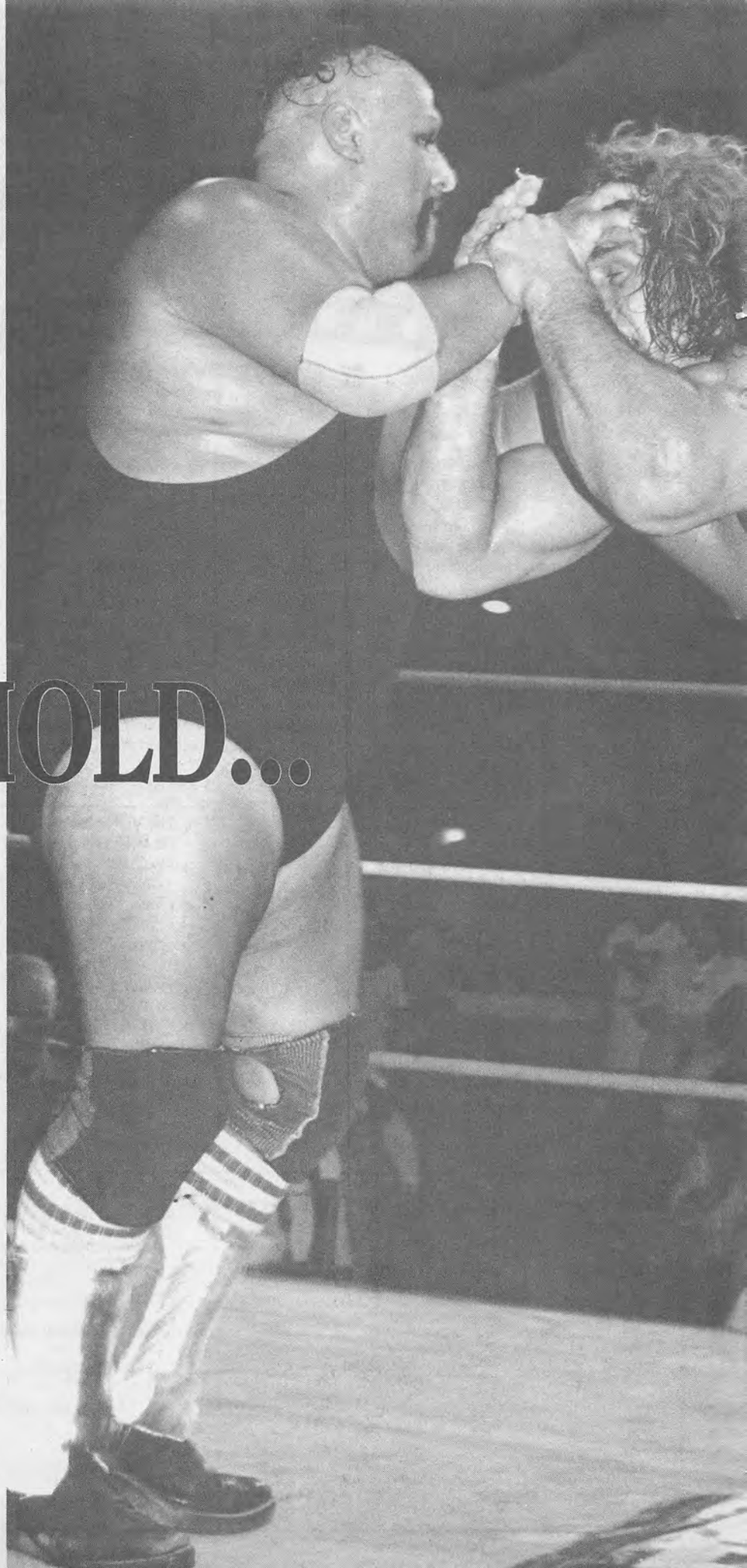
Bulba pinned Kerry Von Erich in The Sportatorium, and used the clawhold to do it.

Now, an unlikely war is being waged in Texas—and Kerry is losing!

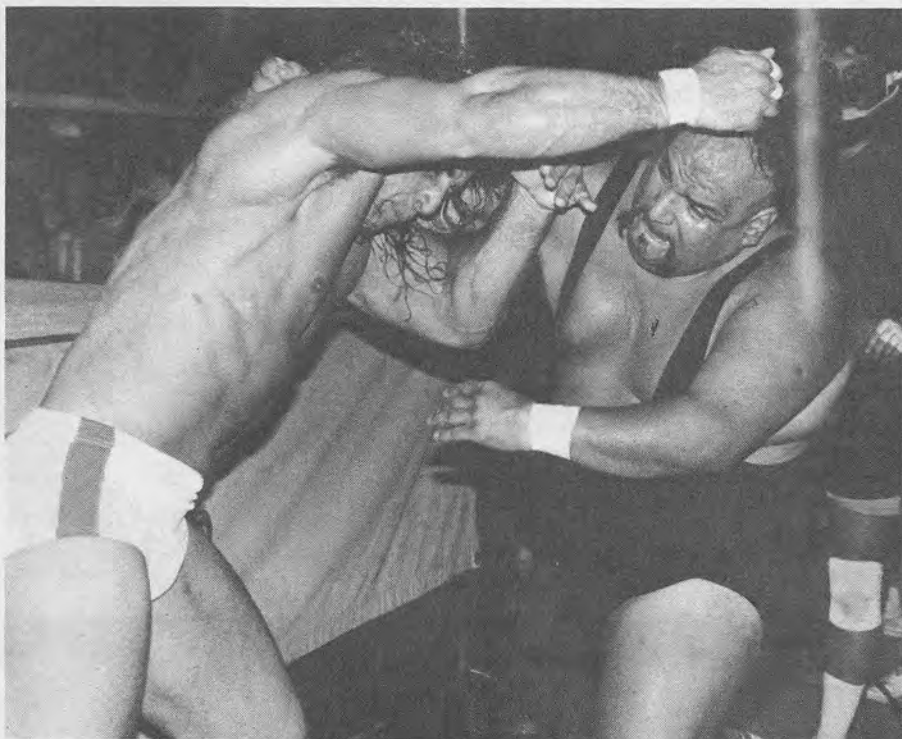
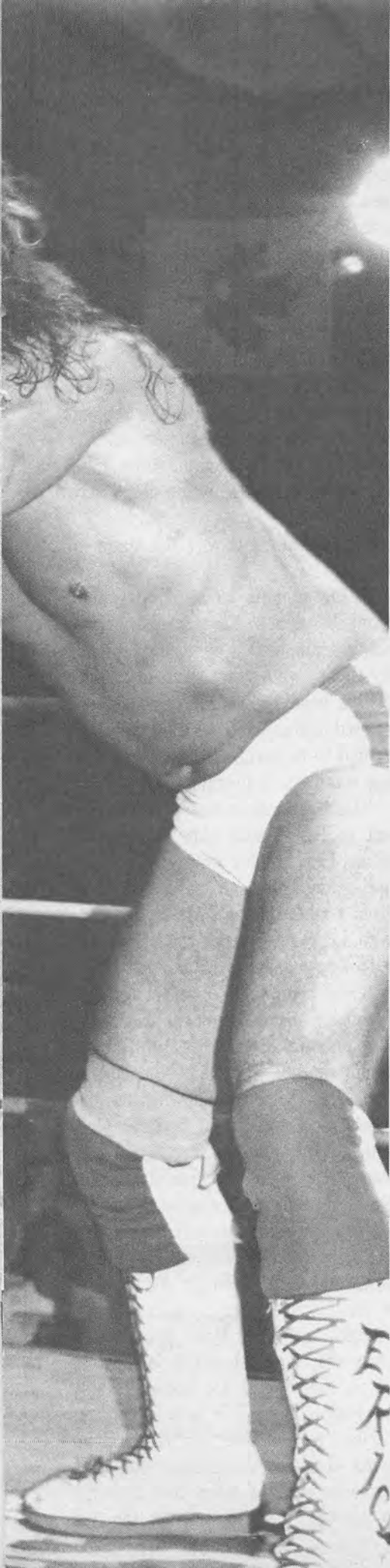
By Dave Rosenbaum

**A**S ATHLETES BECOME older, subtle signs begin to appear that their skills are shrinking. A home run hitter hits a high, hanging curveball to the warning track. A great defensive forward gets beaten to the basket by a lumbering center. The speedy halfback tries to go through a wide-open hole, only to have it close up once he gets there.

The wrestler who based his career on the clawhold gets beaten—with the clawhold.







After Taras Bulba defeated Kerry Von Erich with the clawhold (left), the fans at Dallas' Sportatorium sat in stunned silence. The match, in which the two men brawled in and out of the ring (above), gave no indication that an upset was in the making.

# ...AND THE CLAWHOLD WINS!

Perhaps it's too early to point to one defeat and say that Kerry Von Erich has fallen from superstar status, but suffering an upset loss to this particular man at this particular time in this particular way is very upsetting to the Von Erich family and their fans.

"That just shouldn't happen to a Von Erich," family patriarch Fritz Von Erich said in dismay as he watched the replay of Kerry Von Erich's loss to Taras Bulba on August 25 in Dallas. "A man like Bulba, I just

don't know what happened. Kerry couldn't have been concentrating too hard for that to happen. He just didn't see it coming."

Observers of the match agree that Kerry made the mistake of not having properly scouted his opponent. Rather than rely on the clawhold—which ultimately to his demise—he could have *wrestled* Bulba and beaten him with ease.

Bulba, on the other hand, was well-prepared by his manager, Gen.

Skandor Akbar. Bulba has a poor physique and an even poorer grasp of wrestling basics, but he did have a sense to do what few others have: keep Von Erich from applying the claw in the first place. Kerry was in position to apply his devastating hold, but Bulba kicked him in the stomach.

It was a simple defense, although one that has rarely been used. In most

Bulba gets his hands up just in time to ward off the chair that Von Erich is bringing down on his head (right). Referee Bronco Lubich tries in vain to pull the sadistic Bulba off the already beaten Von Erich (below). Finally, Matt Borne, Eric Embry, Jimmy Jack Funk, and Percy Pringle rushed to the rescue.



cases, Kerry waits until his opponent is in too weakened a state to prevent himself from being caught in the claw-hold. "The claw isn't a simple move to apply," Kerry once said. "Your opponent has to be in the perfect position, and he also has to be helpless. The thing is, people expect the claw from me, so they're always on guard, which makes it even tougher to apply. But whenever I want to use it, it's never really that difficult."

And—as Kerry later admitted—he never thought Bulba would respond with the only proper defense: a kick or punch to the midsection. Even more incredible, however, was Bulba's next move.

He applied the claw to the master of the claw!

A few minutes later, blood spurted from the veins in Kerry's head; he was helpless and ended up getting pinned by Bulba, who didn't seem to stand a chance heading into the match. Bulba refused to dismantle the claw, and Kerry had to be carried back to the dressing room on a stretcher.

"He was really a mess when we got out to him," said Matt Borne, who joined Eric Embry, Jimmy Jack Funk, and Percy Pringle to save Von Erich from further damage. He barely knew who we were. I don't think I've ever seen Kerry quite so helpless."

It was a humbling moment for Kerry, and a historic moment for Texas. Less than a month earlier, World Class Championship Wrestling—the federation Kerry helped build with his bare hands, and brought to national glory with a 1984 victory over NWA World champ Ric Flair—became the United States Wrestling Association. That was a happy moment, because Eric Embry saved the federation from Tojo Yamamoto and Gen. Skandor Akbar. But, in the minds of many, it also officially ushered out the Von Erich/World Class era, and ushered in an era in which Von Erichs are not necessarily the leading players.

Now, fans at The Sportatorium, an arena where the Von Erichs rarely lose, not only watched Kerry lose a match to an inferior opponent, but saw the





Von Erich is carried back to the dressing room on a stretcher. There were, fortunately, no lasting physical effects from the match, but so far Kerry has not been able to erase the embarrassment with a decisive rematch victory.

claw fail for Kerry and work for Taras Bulba. Afterward, numerous fans were ready to count Kerry as finished. Perhaps that's true. But maybe it's really time to look a little deeper at Kerry Von Erich's career.

He has been through so much. Over 11 years ago, Kerry made his debut under a glaring spotlight. He has not escaped the spotlight since then. When brothers David and Mike died, Kerry was expected to lead the Von Erichs out of tragedy; it was a heavy weight to bear. His career has been oversaturated with difficult opponents and difficult matches. Then there was the motorcycle accident he was involved in three years ago, which took an enormous physical toll on his body.

In retrospect, it was only a matter of time before a Taras Bulba came along.

A week later at The Sportatorium,

Kerry took on Bulba again in a claw vs. claw match. This time, Kerry fought gallantly and held off an overconfident Bulba. But he wasn't able to even the score. Kerry clamped on the claw and appeared to be on the verge of victory when Gary Young charged into the ring and kicked Kerry. Bulba was disqualified; Kerry wasn't satisfied.

"Until I even the score, I'm not going to rest easy," Von Erich said.

Kerry vs. Bulba, Chapter III, took place on September 8, again at The Sportatorium, again in a claw vs. claw match. Again, Kerry failed to gain revenge; again, Bulba humiliated him. Bulba tossed Kerry out of the ring and applied the claw once. Then, he and Akbar tied Kerry to the ringpost. Bulba headbutted—and nearly broke—Kerry's hand, and the match was ruled a no-decision.

Their dog-collar chain match two days later in Mesquite, Texas, was an absolute bloodfest. Finally, Kerry managed to apply the claw, and Bulba was about to black out when P.Y. Chu-Hi charged into the ring and attacked Von Erich. To the fans, it was an obvious victory for Kerry. But the "Modern-Day Warrior" was anything but proud.

"It's still 1-0, and I'm losing," Kerry said, his voice dripping with bitterness. "Bulba hasn't seen the best of me."

But even Kerry has to address the notion that the world might already have seen the best of Kerry Von Erich. "If that's what people are thinking," he said, "that'll give me all the more motivation to come out on top."

Somehow, the Von Erichs always have. □

**Every issue, reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport.**

# PRESS CONFERENCE JIM ROSS

**W**EEK AFTER WEEK, fans across the country look forward to watching their favorite wrestling television programs. And every week, one of the most listened-to voices in the sport belongs to veteran broadcaster Jim Ross, the blow-by-blow announcer on TBS' *World Championship Wrestling*, *NWA Power Hour*, and *NWA Main Event*, plus the syndicated *World Wide Wrestling* program.

Ross first gained prominence as a member of the Mid-South broadcasting team that also included Bill Watts, and was part of that organization when it expanded into the UWF in 1986. Ross was the voice of *Power Pro Wrestling* when the UWF merged with the NWA in early 1988, and it was at that time that Ross moved into the NWA broadcast booth and the national spotlight.

Over the course of Ross' two-year stint with the NWA, he has emerged as one of the most respected broadcast journalists in the business. His knowledge of wrestling history is remarkable, and his smooth, sure delivery during match calls has been compared to such giants of broadcasting as Gordon Solie, Bill Cardille, and Marty O'Neill.

Admittedly as much a fan as he is a broadcaster, Ross now believes he is in the greatest situation of his life. He is happy to be an important part of a sport he considers "one of my great loves," and he's even more excited about the growth of the NWA since the federation was purchased by Ted Turner early this year.

Editor-In-Chief Stu Saks, Managing Editor Craig Peters, and Senior Editor Bill Apter caught up with Ross before he donned the headphones to announce *Clash of the Champions VIII* in Columbia, South Carolina.







**"I'm as much a fan of the sport as [the fans] are. If anything has made me successful, it's the fact that I truly enjoy coming to work each and every day."**

**STU SAKS:** Jim, we feel very privileged that you could take time out of your busy schedule to speak with us.

**JIM ROSS:** Gentlemen, the pleasure is all mine. Since I'm such a big wrestling fan, I'm also a *PWI* fan, and I'm very pleased to be the subject of "Press Conference" this month. Believe me, it's really quite an honor.

**BILL APTER:** Many times, I've heard you say during telecasts that you're living out a dream by being able to announce wrestling matches. As someone who works and travels with the wrestlers, you've got a very unique perspective on the sport. What are your opinions on the state of wrestling as we head into 1990?

**ROSS:** Well, I'm excited about being in wrestling at this point in time because of the fact that Ted Turner has purchased the NWA. Turner Broadcasting is very deeply involved in our product, and I think that's going to help the NWA remain strong throughout the coming years. And I think that

the future for our sport in general looks very promising not only because of Turner's involvement in the NWA, but because the WWF has done great things in getting the sport recognized on a national and international basis. I think the NWA, which is the oldest and most respected wrestling organization, is now rapidly involved in that

same philosophy. We want to compete on that same level. But don't get me wrong here; I'm not trying to make the NWA look like a second sister, because that surely isn't the case.

**CRAIG PETERS:** But you are actively in competition with each other.

*(Continued on page 64)*



Jim Ross lets Road Warrior Animal have his say (above). Ross brings a smile to the face of his broadcast partner, Jim Cornette, during the *NWA Power Hour* (opposite).

# ***NEXT VICTIM:***





**The Ultimate Warrior was born to go against the rules. He was born to follow his instincts. Now, after toppling Andre the Giant and Rick Rude, his instincts for greatness might take him after the ultimate prey: Hulk Hogan!**

# HULK HOGAN?



The Ultimate Warrior is on fire and blazing a path to Hulk Hogan's WWF World title. The Ultimate confrontation could be just months away!

By Stu Saks

**B**Y THE RULES of the jungle, only one animal can be king. There is no room for the weak beast at the head of the mountain; it is the lion that rules, with all his ferocity, wisdom, and lack of compassion. Because when the rules of survival take over, only the ruthless endure.

The Ultimate Warrior lives by the rules of the jungle. He is a man whose power cannot be harnessed; his mind cannot be controlled. The Warrior lives by one goal, and that's to become the mightiest, the best, the greatest wrestler in the world. To be second best is to die.

He followed this credo when he won his first WWF Intercontinental title from The Honky Tonk Man. The Warrior realized the power of surprise and seized the moment, attacking Honky Tonk before the bell, then pounding him into the mat with all his might. Honky Tonk never stood a chance. He argued that the Warrior's pre-bell attack was illegal. He was right. But according to the rules of survival, nothing is taboo.

The Warrior's thirst for power was robbed when he lost the belt to Rick Rude at WrestleMania V, but he never complained. He simply fought back and seized another moment at SummerSlam '89 in a rematch with Rude. Rude made the mistake of turning his back on a hungry animal and was the victim of another Warrior ambush. Some people might say that



Ultimate Warrior presses Rick Rude high overhead (above) and dumps him unceremoniously on his back (below). Don't expect the Warrior to be satisfied with the Intercontinental title.



Roddy Piper's interference led to the Warrior's victory, when in fact it was the rules of survival taking over again.

But being WWF Intercontinental champion means being second best in the WWF. For a wrestler that strives to be the greatest, there can be only temporary satisfaction in holding the I-C title. Eventually, instinct takes over again, and with it, the realization that there's a higher and stronger beast in the jungle.

The Ultimate Warrior, man-animal on a quest for greatness and power, must have the WWF World title in order to survive. His instincts demand that he become the king of the WWF, even if he must bring down Hulk Hogan to do it.

It might seem unthinkable that the Warrior would challenge Hogan, a man he's been on friendly terms with in the past. But the lure of championship gold has prompted other Hogan allies, including Andre, Paul Orndorff, and Randy Savage, to change their philosophies and become brutal rule-breakers. None of these men, not even Savage, have the animal mindset that Warrior possesses.

The Warrior grunts and groans. He has a look in his eye that means danger. He tears into opponents with the ferocity of the most vicious rulebreaker. But he is not a rulebreaker, and that's where the troubles would begin in a quest for a shot at Hogan. It is unlikely, however, that the Warrior's relationship with the fans—if he, indeed, *does* have a relationship with the fans—would stand in his way.

Remember, he is a wild beast, capable of any action. He would easily forsake the fans for a shot at Hogan. In fact, he would be more likely than even Andre, Orndorff, and Savage to turn against the public, seeing them as a huge burden holding him back in his fight for survival.

"When Warrior called himself Rock back in the UWF, he was a rulebreaker, but he acted exactly the same way as he does now," said former UWF President Bill Watts. "He hasn't changed a lick. Same old wild maniac. I sometimes wonder how it is that he hasn't killed anybody yet. There are times when he's absolutely out of control."

Warrior was especially out of con-

trol in his recent series of matches against his former boyhood idol, Andre the Giant. No man has ever dominated the 7'5", 497-pound Andre the way Ultimate did. Several times, he charged into the ring and attacked Andre before the bell rang, then floored him with a series of vicious clotheslines for a sub-30-second pin. Andre was annihilated and forced to consider retirement.

Those matches made it clear that there are few challenges left for the Warrior. Rude can't beat him without Bobby Heenan's outside interference. Savage wrestled him in a series of matches prior to WrestleMania V and found himself overmatched.

Thus, the Warrior's thirst for competition *and* greatness can only be satisfied in one way: a match against Hogan. The "Hulkster" is the one man in the WWF that the Warrior might not be able to overpower. He is the one man in the WWF that is currently superior to the Warrior. And he is probably the only man in the federation that's more popular.

It's easy to read the Warrior's mind these days. It's easy to sense that he's plotting ways to get at Hogan and bring him down, much like a lion plots ways to stalk his prey. It is ironic, then, that a civilized notion such as bureaucracy might get in the way of the Warrior's animalistic instincts.

"The WWF wants no part of a Warrior-Hogan feud," WWF expert Thomas Pilliard said. "It would sell out arenas, and undoubtedly bring in a bundle at any WrestleMania, but you have to understand that a large part of the WWF's profits comes from souvenirs and marketing. They don't want to see two of their most popular wrestlers at odds. They've already lost Savage. Losing the Warrior could be devastating."

But in this case, the WWF isn't necessarily in control of the situation. There's a wild beast on the loose, a neanderthal that will settle for nothing less than being king of the jungle.

The Ultimate Warrior is on the prowl, and Hogan could be his next victim. □



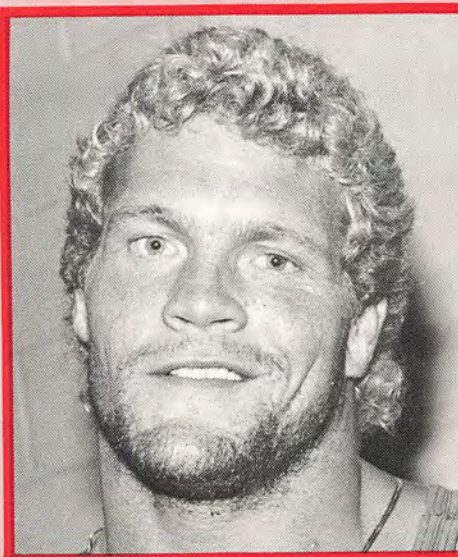
# PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

TV SPORTS

## CLOSE-UP

### SID VICIOUS

**S**ID VICIOUS—6'8", 318 pounds of solid muscle—is an uncommon combination of power, speed, and agility . . . One press account said Vicious has "the kind of killer instinct that makes Big Bossman look like a Good Samaritan" . . . The native of West Memphis, Arkansas, watched wrestling as a child, but was more interested in football than wrestling . . . Met Randy Savage when he attended a football camp in Memphis, Tennessee, where Savage was wrestling . . . Savage talked to him about getting into the sport and introduced him to promoter Eddie Marlin . . . Marlin recommended Tojo Yamamoto's wrestling school in Nashville, Tennessee . . . Vicious' first pro bout took place in Memphis, a tag team match pitting him and Austin Idol against Jerry Lawler and Nick Bockwinkel; the bout ended in a double-disqualification . . . With Downtown Bruno as his manager, Vicious came to the CWF as the masked Lord Humongous in 1987 . . . Won the Southeast title from Dan Davis on December 25, 1987, in Knoxville, Tennessee . . . After saving Shane Douglas from a beating at the hands of Alan Martin, Humongous turned against Bruno . . . He was beating up Bruno on an interview when Detroit Demolition threw a bottle of ink in his face; that started a feud with Detroit . . . Humongous and Douglas won the Continental tag team title from D.I. Bob Carter and Pvt. Pyle (who was a last-minute replacement for Detroit Demolition) on July 18, 1988, in Birmingham, Alabama . . . Entered the CWA as Sid Vicious in October 1988 . . . Several men were hospitalized after receiving crushing legdrops delivered from the second rope by Vicious . . . Joined Robert Fuller's Stud Stable when Fuller promised to make him all the money he wanted . . . In an incredibly frightening incident, Vicious broke the neck of Jamie Dundee, 17-year-old son of Bill Dundee, with a Japanese cobra hold after Fuller and Jimmy Golden attacked Bill Dundee and Jamie ran to his father's rescue . . . After that, opponents looked at Vicious with new respect—and fear . . . Won the CWA heavyweight title from Brian Lee in Memphis on December 12, 1988, with interference from Downtown Bruno and Sylvia . . . While Bruno argued with the referee and Lee, Sylvia handed Vicious a chain that he used to load his kneepad . . . He kneed Lee and scored the pin . . . Asked Gen. Skandor Akbar to get him a match against Kerry Von Erich . . . After the match ended in an out-of-the-ring brawl, Von Erich called Vicious "the most awesome man I've ever wrestled" . . . Kerry was especially impressed that Vicious could execute such an effective dropkick . . . Lost the CWA belt to Wendell Cooley in Memphis on January 2, 1989 . . . Two weeks later at a TV taping, Vicious turned against The Stud Stable, accusing Fuller and Golden of manipulating him for their own gain . . . At the taping,



Vicious was wrestling Golden when Fuller came in for the double-team . . . Vicious was saved by Jeff Jarrett and others, and the feud was on . . . Lost a loser-leaves-town match to Fuller on January 23, 1989, in Memphis, when he was distracted by Sylvia, who ironically had helped him win the title . . . Vicious was winning the match when Sylvia got up on the ring apron and started peeling off her clothing until she was very scantily clad . . . As Vicious stared at her, Fuller snuck up on him from behind, hit him with a foreign object, and pinned him . . . Wrestled for four weeks in Japan, where he was also known as Vicious Warrior . . . Had matches against such stars as Antonio Inoki, Riki Choshu, and Tatsumi Fujinami . . . Came back to the CWA as Humongous, Lawler's secret weapon against The Stud Stable, which now included Dutch Mantel, Master of Pain, and Perry "Action" Jackson . . . Vicious' main opponent was Master of Pain . . . Unleashed his fury on his former teammates during a special 10-man "Rage in the Cage" match on April 10 . . .

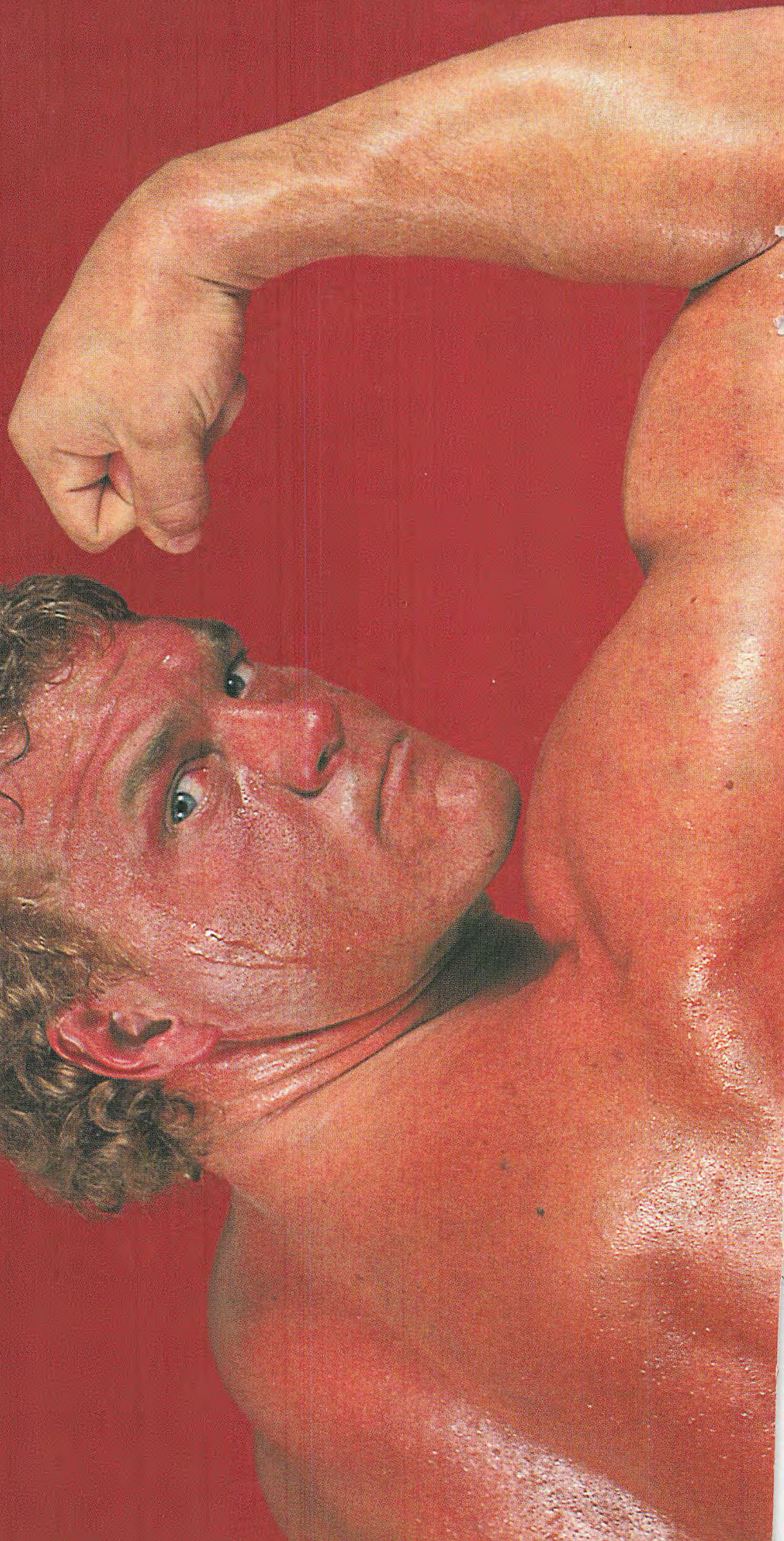
There were five pairs of handcuffs attached to the cage and wrestlers were eliminated by being handcuffed . . . Stud Stable manager Ronald Gossett got a hold of the key to the handcuffs and unlocked all the rulebreakers, who had a decisive advantage until Vicious broke out of his handcuffs and cleared the ring . . . Was originally scheduled to come into the NWA as a singles competitor, but Teddy Long teamed him with Dan Spivey and they became The Skyscrapers . . . Long calls his men "618 pounds of total destruction" . . . Their first major triumph came on July 23 at the Baltimore Great American Bash in a two-ring, King of the Ring battle royal . . . Vicious won in the first ring and Spivey won the second . . . They were then supposed to wrestle each other for the \$50,000 prize, but Long insisted they not wrestle and split the money . . . Vicious was irked because he didn't care that he had to fight his partner . . . Dominated The Dynamic Dudes (Johnny Ace and Shane Douglas, Vicious' former partner) in several matches during the Bashes . . . Earned serious consideration as NWA World tag/team title contenders when they scored convincing victories over the former World champions, The Midnight Express, in August . . . Team has been nicknamed by some "The Road Warriors of the 1990s," and will get a chance to prove it when they soon face Hawk and Animal . . . The Skyscrapers have a size advantage, but the Warriors have the experience . . . "We've dominated the NWA for five years," says Animal. "Those guys are gonna be the next ones to go down to the mighty Warriors!" . . . Vicious replies: "The Warriors are old and tired. It's time for The Skyscrapers to take charge!" . . . Whatever team wins, the contests promise to be some of the most "vicious" encounters ever. □



**Pro Wrestling**  
ILLUSTRATED

**SID VICIOUS**

Skyscraping Terror

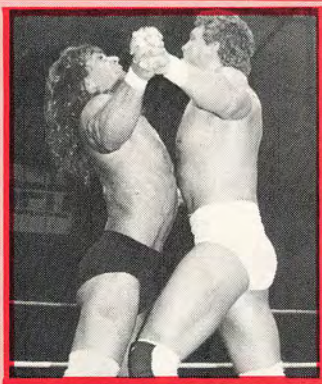






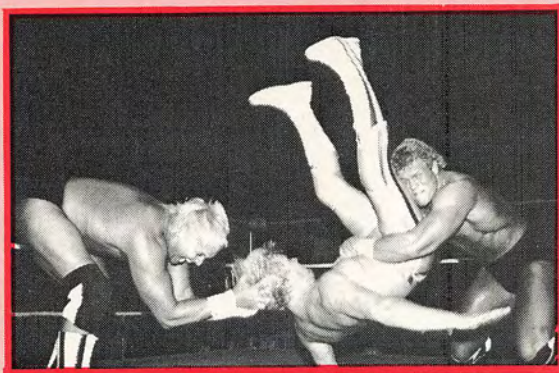


# CLOSE-UP



## TOUGHEST OPPONENT

**Kerry Von Erich.** Vicious may have been Kerry's most awesome opponent, but Kerry was Vicious' toughest foe as well. Though he brims with confidence, Vicious admits that Kerry gave him all he could handle, but he has forgotten about Kerry and is looking forward to some rough challenges from The Road Warriors. The Legion of Doom, he says, will really test his skills.



## MOST HATED OPPONENT

**Robert Fuller.** When Vicious first came to the CWA, he joined Fuller's Stud Stable, but soon felt betrayed by Fuller and his men and vowed to destroy them. Vicious lost a loser-leaves-town match to Fuller early in 1989, but got his revenge several months later when he returned to Memphis as Humongous, Jerry Lawler's secret weapon that wasn't so secret, but surely was a weapon.

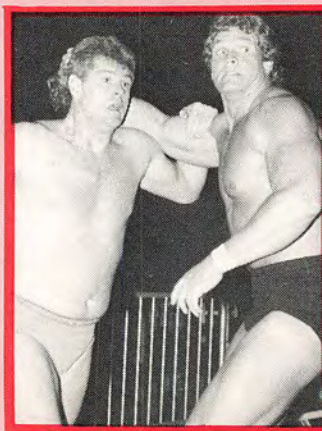
## GREATEST MATCH

**December 18, 1988 vs. Kerry Von Erich.** Vicious had just defeated Brian Lee to win the CWA championship, his first major title, when he faced Von Erich in Dallas. It was the behemoth's first match in the national spotlight, and he was so effective that Kerry called him "the most awesome man I've ever wrestled." The match ended inconclusively in a wild, out-of-the-ring brawl, but Vicious' reputation for toughness had been established.



## FAVORITE MANEUVER

**Double power bomb.** Vicious combines with his Skyscraper partner Dan Spivey to execute this brutal maneuver that can incapacitate even the most well-conditioned athlete. While one man holds his opponent belly-to-belly, the other pulls him down by the hair. The power bomb works so well as a finishing maneuver that dozens of teams are trying to copy it, but it's doubtful they'll be as successful as Vicious and Spivey.





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# Special Fan Ballot:

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# VOTE FOR 1989's BEST WRESTLERS AND MATCHES!

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Once again it's that most important time of the year—the time when we open the pages of this magazine to wrestling's most incisive experts: our readers. It's up to you to make decisions in 10 categories for the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Achievement '89 awards. This is wrestling's most important and prestigious fan poll. Don't be counted out—cast your votes today!

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**T**HE EYES OF the wrestling world are looking to the pages of this magazine. Because every year, in the January issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, wrestling fans answer the sport's most important questions:

Who were the best wrestlers of the year just past? Who's improved the most? Who's been the most successful manager? The most inspiring wrestler? The most impressive rookie? The most popular and the most hated? Who's been the best tag team? What's been the greatest match? The wildest feud? And who deserves that highest of all honors: Wrestler of the Year?

The answers to these questions are determined by wrestling's true experts—you, the readers of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*. It is up to you to cast your votes for the best of the past year—the **PWI** Achievement '89 Awards.

In this special section, descriptions of the various categories are included along with last year's winners and a

listing of some of this year's top candidates in alphabetical order. Read the descriptions and take some time to think about your choices for the various awards; your choices, of course, are not limited to the top contenders listed. Then turn to the ballot on page 65 and cast your votes.

Results of the 1989 *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Achievement '89 fan poll will be printed in the spectacular year-end double issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, cover dated March 1990, which will go on sale January 2, 1990. In order for your vote to count, we **must** receive your ballot by December 1.

This is the most respected and prestigious fan poll in all of professional wrestling, and the results will be closely examined by fans and professionals alike. **Every** vote counts. Your voice **must** be heard. Mail in your ballot today!

# ACHIEVEMENT '89

## ROOKIE OF THE YEAR



Dustin Rhodes



Scott Norton



Scotty the Body

The man you select as Rookie of the Year must fulfill two qualifications: He must not have been a winner/runner-up in last year's vote (example: Scott Steiner), and he should have yet to complete his second full year as a pro by the time December 31, 1989, rolls around. You should make two major considerations as you think about your choice: (1) What kind of success did the wrestler have during the past year, and (2) What is this wrestler's potential for future success? Past Rookies of the Year have included such notables as Ric Flair, Terry Taylor, Bob Backlund, Larry Zbyszko, Tommy Rich, and Rick Steamboat. A vote for Rookie of the Year is a vote for a possible future world champion.

**Top candidates for 1989:** Wayne Bloom, Mike Enos, Tommy Jammer, Scott Norton, Lou Perez, Dustin Rhodes, Scotty the Body.

**1988 Winner:** Madusa Miceli

## MOST POPULAR WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

Popularity is self-explanatory. Cheers, adoration, and the love of the fans. Very few wrestlers command that kind of respect, but when they do it's wonderful to see. This is a remarkable award in that the winner is a success in the hearts of the fans, regardless of his success in the ring. A wrestler who observes the rules, who respects the fans, who is a true sportsman—and



Rick Steiner



Ultimate Warrior

who receives the loudest cheers—is a fine choice for this category.

**Top candidates for 1989:** Hacksaw Duggan, Eric Embry, Ric Flair, Hulk Hogan, Dusty Rhodes, Sgt. Slaughter, Rick Steiner, Sting, Ultimate Warrior.

**1988 Winner:** Randy Savage

## MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR



Jeff Jarrett



Scott Steiner

Who should you consider as a candidate for the Most Improved Wrestler of the Year? Pick someone who, throughout 1989, has worked the hardest to improve himself as a technical wrestler. The man who has struggled to learn several new maneuvers. The man who has captured a major title for the first time in his career. He can be a rulebreaker or a scientific wrestler, but his improvement should be considered to have been not only significant at year's end, but generally consistent throughout the entire year. Tag teams are eligible when both members of the team have improved significantly.

**Top candidates for 1989:** Brutus Beefcake, Larry Cameron, Demolition, Eric Embry, Hulk Hogan, Jeff Jarrett, Lex Luger, Samoan Swat Team, Scott Steiner, Kendall Windham.

**1988 Winner:** Sting



# ACHIEVEMENT '89

## MOST HATED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

The flip side of popularity. Jeers, despal, and the utter contempt of the fans. Some wrestlers openly court the fans' hatred, others simply don't care what the fans think. Who receives the loudest boos? Who has committed the most vilified deeds? Who deserves to be banned from the sport forever? Who openly flaunts his disrespect for the fans and the rules? This is a man



*Terry Funk*



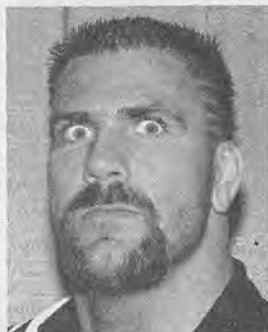
*Randy Savage*

likely to be chosen as Most Hated Wrestler of the Year.

**Top candidates for 1989:** Andre the Giant, P.Y. Chu-Hi, Dennis Condrey, Dynamite Kid, Terry Funk, Lex Luger, The Great Muta, Rick Rude, Randy Savage, Larry Zbyszko, Zeus.

**1988 Winner:** Andre the Giant

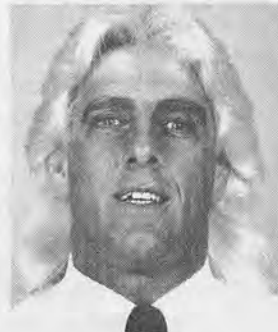
## INSPIRATIONAL WRESTLER OF THE YEAR



*Nikita Koloff*



*Davey Boy Smith*



*Ric Flair*

Wrestling is a sport completely in the public eye, an open arena where an athlete's personal strengths and weaknesses, as well as his physical ones, are on display for all to see. Sometimes a wrestler may come up against a seemingly insurmountable obstacle in his career. How he deals with that roadblock, and whether he can turn a failure into a success, can offer inspiration to fans everywhere. The man chosen as Inspirational Wrestler of the Year should be a shining example of courage, willpower, and tenacity for fans and professionals alike.

**Top candidates for 1989:** Eric Embry, Ric Flair, Billy Jack Haynes, Hulk Hogan, Antonio Inoki, Nikita Koloff, Davey Boy Smith, Rick Steamboat, Ultimate Warrior.

**1988 Winner:** Jerry Lawler

## MANAGER OF THE YEAR



*Skandor Akbar*



*Jim Cornette*



*Bobby Heenan*

A manager is one of wrestling's most unique personalities, and his job varies depending on the men he manages. At one extreme, a manager offers moral support at ringside; at the other extreme, he can be a complex mixture of strategist, confidant, personal adviser, public relations man, and business manager. Popularity or hatred should not come into play here. Your choice for Manager of the Year should be that one individual who has enjoyed the most success with his wrestler or wrestlers throughout 1989. (Valets who only valet are not eligible for managerial consideration.)

**Top candidates for 1989:** Gen. Skandor Akbar, Jim Cornette, Paul E. Dangerously, Elizabeth, Paul Ellering, Gary Hart, Bobby Heenan, Teddy Long, Slick, Johnny Valiant.

**1988 Winner:** J.J. Dillon

# ACHIEVEMENT '89

## FEUD OF THE YEAR

Every year there are some feuds that stretch out longer than others, wars that capture the imagination of fans for months on end, that seem to embody the very essence of the sport. The criteria are simple: Your choice for Feud of the Year should be that one continuing series of battles, lasting at least two months, that you feel has dominated the careers of the participants to the exclusion of all other activities. The Feud of the Year is that one feud that, in your opinion, provided some of the sport's most exciting matches in 1989.

**Top candidates for 1989:** Gen. Skandor Akbar's army vs. Eric Embry, Dynamite Kid vs. Davey Boy Smith, Ric Flair vs. Terry Funk, Ric Flair vs. Rick Steamboat, Hulk Hogan vs. Randy Savage, Hulk Hogan vs. Zeus, The Great Muta vs. Sting, The Road Warriors vs. Samoan Swat Team, Rick Rude vs. Ultimate Warrior.

**1988 Winner:** Ric Flair vs. Lex Luger

## MATCH OF THE YEAR



*Rick Steamboat vs. Ric Flair*



*Ultimate Warrior vs. Rick Rude*

Every wrestling fan has left an arena thinking, "That was one of the greatest matches I've ever seen." Well, if that happened to you in 1989, then you should be considering that match as Match of the Year. The bout chosen as Match of the Year might well have historic significance (such as a major title change or a loser-leave-town match), though that is not a specific requirement. The main considerations are action, drama, and pure wrestling excitement.

**Top candidates for 1989:** January 23: The Rockers vs. The Brain Busters; February 7: Larry Zbyszko wins AWA World title battle royal; February 20: Rick Steamboat wins NWA title from Ric Flair; April 2: Hulk Hogan regains WWF World title from Randy Savage; April 2: Ric Flair vs. Rick Steamboat; April 24: Antonio Inoki vs. Chochoshivili; May 7: Ric Flair regains NWA World title from Rick Steamboat; July 18: Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson win WWF tag belts from Demolition; August 28: Ultimate Warrior regains WWF Intercontinental title from Rick Rude.

**1988 Winner:** February 5: Andre the Giant vs. Hulk Hogan

## TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR



*Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson*



*Jimmy Garvin & Michael Hayes*



*Mike Enos & Wayne Bloom*

Tag team wrestling is no longer taking a back seat to solo grappling. So many duos have made tag team wrestling history in one way or another that the field for Tag Team of the Year only seems to get stronger each year. Experience, skill, and success all count

in this category, though whether a team is scientific or rulebreaking should make no difference. An important note: Teams competing regularly in six-man competition are eligible for this award.

**Top candidates for 1989:** Arn An-

derson & Tully Blanchard, Demolition, Mike Enos & Wayne Bloom, Michael Hayes & Jim Garvin, The Road Warriors, The Rockers, Samoan Swat Team, Rick & Scott Steiner, Wildside.

**1988 Winners:** The Road Warriors



# ACHIEVEMENT '89

## WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

This is the top honor. The winner of this award should be the one man who has personified the essence of professional wrestling throughout 1989. Talent, skill, and achievement are the three prerequisites for this category. The man chosen as Wrestler of the Year should be the most well-rounded athlete in the sport. He should have contributed something of lasting worth to the history of professional wrestling. If you compiled your own Top 10 ratings for all of 1989, the man you would place as number one should be the man you vote for. The Wrestler of the Year is the one man who represents wrestling excellence in every respect. Will Ric Flair win this prestigious



*Eric Embry*



*Hulk Hogan*



*Larry Zbyszko*

award for an unprecedented fifth time? You decide!

**Top candidates for 1989:** Eric Embry, Ric Flair, Hulk Hogan, Jerry Lawler, Lex Luger, Randy Savage, Rick

Steamboat, Sting, Ultimate Warrior, Larry Zbyszko.

**1988 Winner:** Randy Savage

## YOUR "UNOFFICIAL OFFICIAL" AWARD

This category asks you to do a little bit of creative work. We want you to come up with your own awards category and name the recipient of that award. Don't be afraid to be outlandish or ridiculous—the more creative the better! Last year, six full pages of "Unofficial Official" awards were presented in our special 100-page double-issue year-end edition of *PWI*, and this year's March issue will present another dose of year-end fun. Get crazy—come up with something outrageous and send it along!

**Some awards from last year:** Medical Gibberish Award: Gorilla Monsoon ... No Need To Beware: Koko B. Ware ... Reach Out And Touch Someone: Paul E. Dangerously ... Too Long In The Desert Sun: Gen. Skandor Akbar ... Sexiest Woman: Madusa Miceli ... Worst SuperCard: SummerSlam '88.

## OFFICIAL FAN BALLOT

Send ballot to: ACHIEVEMENT '89 VOTE  
c/o Pro Wrestling Illustrated, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571

HERE ARE MY VOTES FOR THE BEST OF 1989:

Rookie Of The Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
Most Improved Wrestler of the Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
Most Popular Wrestler of the Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
Most Hated Wrestler of the Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspirational Wrestler of the Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
Manager of the Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
Match of the Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
Feud of the Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tag Team of the Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
Wrestler of the Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
My "Unofficial Official" Award For 1989: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

We welcome any and all suggestions and comments you may have, or added nominations for "Unofficial Official" awards. Feel free to include extra remarks on an additional sheet of paper.

# Scouting Report

A NO-HOLDS-BARRED LOOK AT WRESTLING'S TOP STARS

Every other month, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Scouting Reports will examine the relative strengths and weaknesses of wrestling's top stars. There will be no punches pulled as the sport's athletes undergo the harshest scrutiny anywhere in the wrestling world



## DENNIS CONDREY

**HOMETOWN:** Marietta, GA

**HEIGHT:** 6'

**WEIGHT:** 256

**YEARS AS PRO:** 17

**RATING:** CWF champion

### STRENGTHS:

- Ruthless. Learned his lessons well from former manager Jim Cornette and will stop at nothing to save his title.
- Experience. This wily veteran has been around and is ready for anything.
- Resiliency. Has bounced back from adversity several times, most notably after both Midnight Express breakups.

**OTHER COMMENTS:** Won CWF title from Tom Prichard on July 22, 1989 . . . Held the NWA World tag team title with Bobby Eaton as The Midnight Express and the AWA World tag belts with Randy Rose as the "original" Midnight Express . . . Pushed out of the Midnights in early 1987 when Mama Cornette wanted new blood.

**OUTLOOK FOR '90:** Condrey's career was in danger when he left The Midnight Express, but he has proven that he can make it on his own. If he stays in the CWF, he could easily become the federation's dominant singles wrestler.

### WEAKNESSES:

- One-dimensional. A kicker and puncher with few scientific skills.
- Overconfident. Never takes a step back; often gets caught in difficult situations. Will never learn his limitations.
- Poor chain wrestler. Has difficulty putting several moves together toward a final goal.



## DAN SPIVEY

**HOMETOWN:** Tampa, FL

**HEIGHT:** 6'8"

**WEIGHT:** 300

**YEARS AS PRO:** 7

**RATING:** unrated

### STRENGTHS:

- Size. "Dangerous" Dan is one of the largest and most muscular men in the sport. He is intimidating.
- Quick. While not fast, Spivey makes quick, short motions that enable him to avoid craftier opponents.
- Clothesline. His huge arms help make this his most dangerous weapon.

### WEAKNESSES:

- Jealousy. Is obsessed with the idea that tag partner Sid Vicious is getting more attention.
- Early clippings. When Spivey debuted, the press called him "the next Hulk Hogan." He's suffered from this unfair comparison.
- Not diversified. Has scientific knowledge but refuses to use it.

**OTHER COMMENTS:** He and Vicious are known as The Skyscrapers . . . Teamed with Mike Rotundo as The U.S. Express in the WWF in 1986 . . . A frequent competitor in Japan, where he is greatly respected.

**OUTLOOK FOR '90:** Whether The Skyscrapers can survive together will decide Spivey's future. So far, Spivey hasn't proven he can make it as a singles wrestler. He needs stability as a tag wrestler, and that means staying with Vicious.





## SCOTT STEINER

**HOMETOWN:** Bay City, MI

**HEIGHT:** 6'1"

**WEIGHT:** 235

**YEARS AS PRO:** 5

**RATING:** unrated

### STRENGTHS:

- Suplexes. Has added new dimension to the suplex with variations never before seen.
- Speed. Lightning-fast, Steiner is undoubtedly one of the speediest men in the NWA.
- Amateur background. Well-rounded repertoire reflects his outstanding collegiate career.

### WEAKNESSES:

- Rick Steiner. Scott is too concerned about his brother; he should worry more about his own career.
- Untested. Lacks big match experience, which has cost he and Rick in title bouts against The Freebirds.
- Travel schedule. NWA match agenda has already elicited signs of burnout.

**OTHER COMMENTS:** Brother of Rick Steiner, with whom he has formed an extremely popular tag team . . . All-American wrestler at University of Michigan . . . Has held the WWA heavyweight title several times.

**OUTLOOK FOR '90:** Unfortunately, Scott's future is in the hands of Missy Hyatt and Robin Green. Only Hyatt and Green are capable of breaking up this outstanding brother team. If that happens, Scott will have to make it on his own . . . and the road has not been easy in the past.



## DERRICK DUKES

**HOMETOWN:** Boston, MA

**HEIGHT:** 6'1"

**WEIGHT:** 235

**YEARS AS PRO:** 4

**RATING:** No. 8 in AWA

### STRENGTHS:

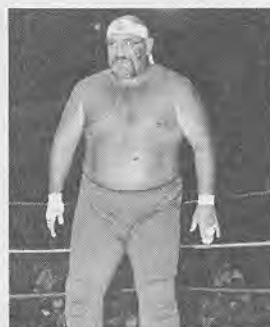
- Physique. Muscular but not huge, strong but lithe, Dukes possesses the perfect wrestling body.
- Aerial attack. Dukes has shaped his career around high-flying maneuvers.
- Athletic ability. Dukes played basketball, football, and baseball in high school.

### WEAKNESSES:

- Inexperience. Lacks match time against top singles foes; is still going through a learning period.
- Indecisiveness. Is he a singles or tag team wrestler? Now that Ricky Rice is back, the decision is more difficult.
- Col. DeBeers. Several careers have been ruined by feuds with this madman.

**OTHER COMMENTS:** Formed The Top Guns with Rice, and at one time were top contenders to the AWA World tag title . . . Made pro debut in July 1986 in Winnipeg, Manitoba . . . Currently embroiled in a feud with Col. DeBeers, although Rice's return could change things.

**OUTLOOK FOR '90:** Dukes is young and doesn't necessarily have to make a career decision right away. It's likely that he'll spend most of the year considering his options and choosing a course. But if he continues to waste his time with DeBeers, there could be long-term trouble.



## P.Y. CHU-HI

**HOMETOWN:** Jackson, TN

**HEIGHT:** 6'1"

**WEIGHT:** 307

**YEARS AS PRO:** 20

**RATING:** No. 2 in USWA

### STRENGTHS:

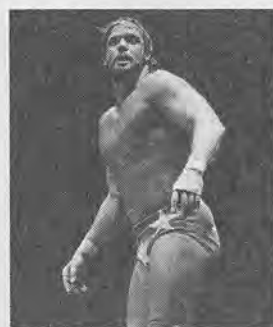
- Tojo Yamamoto. The evil manager has stripped Phil Hickerson of his past, giving him a fresh identity and style.
- Rock-solid. Huge girth makes it difficult to knock him off his feet.
- Catch-as-catch-can style. Simply goes full-speed ahead, no matter what his opponent's style is.

### WEAKNESSES:

- Identity crisis. He doesn't wrestle for himself; he wrestles for Yamamoto. Where does Hickerson end and Chu-Hi begin?
- Immobility. Lusters around the ring; is unable to react to faster opponents.
- Failure. Lost the two biggest tests of his life last summer against Eric Embry; this could have an adverse effect on his psyche.

**OTHER COMMENTS:** Represented Akbar and Tojo Yamamoto in the battle for World Class and lost to Eric Embry . . . Has held the Texas title several times . . . A former CWA champion when known as Phil Hickerson . . . Has absolutely no oriental heritage whatsoever.

**OUTLOOK FOR '90:** It's ironic that Hickerson is at a career peak and no longer goes by his given name. As P.Y. Chu-Hi, he has thrived under the direction of Akbar and Yamamoto. He'll be a USWA force for some time to come.



## RANDY SAVAGE

**HOMETOWN:** Sarasota, FL

**HEIGHT:** 6'1½"

**WEIGHT:** 245

**YEARS AS PRO:** 17

**RATING:** No. 2 in WWF

### STRENGTHS:

- Confidence. The "Macho Man" has shown uncanny ability to bounce back from what seemed to be devastating losses.
- Flying axhandle. This incredible finishing maneuver has injured several men.
- Killer instinct. Is there any fiercer in the sport? Savage goes after opponents with the zeal of a wild animal.

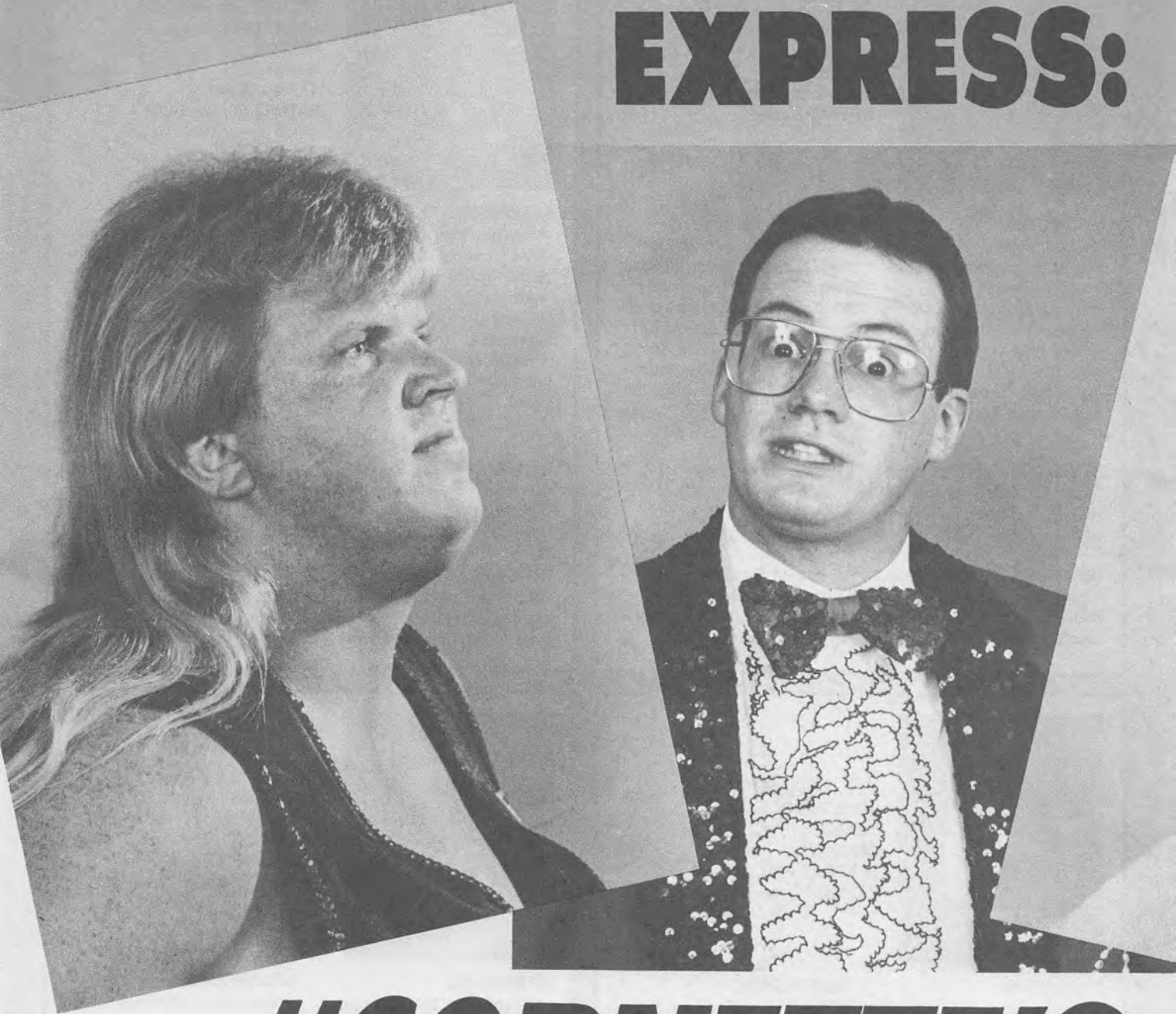
### WEAKNESSES:

- Sherri Martel. She's been anything but sensational! Martel has cost Savage numerous matches with her sloppy, ill-timed interference.
- Lack of focus. Instead of concentrating on the World title, Savage wasted time trying to become "King" of the WWF.
- Exhaustion. Rugged WWF schedule is wearing him down mentally and physically.

**OTHER COMMENTS:** WWF World champion from March 27, 1988, to April 2, 1989 . . . Intercontinental champ from February 8, 1986, to March 29, 1987 . . . Has been dominated in recent matches against Hulk Hogan . . . Combines outstanding scientific and aerial skills with a fierce killer instinct.

**OUTLOOK FOR '90:** The "Macho Man" is in trouble. The World title appears to be out of his reach. He's been no match for The Ultimate Warrior. And his beloved Elizabeth is on Hogan's side. He'll stay in the title picture due to his natural talent, but probably won't get further than that.

# THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS:



**"CORNETTE'S  
ON SHAKY**



**The Midnight Express—Stan Lane and Bobby Eaton—are mired in one of the worst slumps of their career as a team. Surprisingly, both wrestlers are blaming their manager, Jim Cornette, for their current woes—and are even threatening to sever ties with the outspoken mat general!**

By Bob Smith

**S**TAN LANE SAT slumped against his locker, his body a mass of aches and welts, his face a somber scowl. Bobby Eaton, his longtime partner in the tag team known as The Midnight Express, showered and dressed rapidly, and got out of the arena as quickly as he could. For Lane, however, the pain that raced through his muscles—and his heart—would not soon diminish.

"Damn, I can't believe we lost tonight," groaned Lane, struggling to make his way back to his feet to speak with reporters. "Sure, The Freebirds are a good team, or they wouldn't be the NWA World tag team champions. But there's no way a team the caliber of me and Bobby should lose to guys like Jim Garvin and Michael Hayes. There's just no excuse for it."

"How does your manager, Jim Cornette, feel about your defeat tonight?" asked one reporter.

"You should ask Cornette—if you can find him," responded a disgusted Lane. "It used to be that me and Bobby were his only concern, but as you can see, he's nowhere to be found. It seems he's got other things on his mind. Hey, as far as I'm concerned, Cornette's on shaky ground, and I'm I'm sure that Bobby feels the same way."

How could this happen? A little more than a year ago, Cornette's Midnight Express was clearly the hottest team in the sport. Following their victory as 1987's Tag Team of the Year in *PWT's* Achievement '87 poll, Lane and Eaton, led by an enthusiastic and hungry Cornette, shocked the wrestling

*(Continued on page 62)*

Photos by Len McAlister

# GROUND!"

# PWI'S DREAM TOURNAMENT

## CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL

# YOU DECIDE WHO WINS!

*We started with 16 wrestlers and eight first-round matches. Now, the inaugural PWI Dream Tournament is down to two men—Ric Flair and Hulk Hogan—and one big championship final. It's been a great tournament and now, for the final time, you decide who wins!*

**S**EVEN MONTHS AGO, when the PWI Dream Tournament got underway, Randy Savage was WWF World champion and Hulk Hogan was the top contender. Rick Steamboat was NWA World champion, battling it out with the hated Ric Flair. Lex Luger was a fan favorite, Andre the Giant was still a feared wrestler, Sid Vicious was in Japan, Barry Windham was in the NWA, and Ultimate Warrior was in his first WWF Intercontinental title reign.

Much has changed since then. The Dream Tournament, in fact, was more like a long-distance endurance race that only the truly great could survive. And now, as we head into the championship final of the first PWI Dream Tournament, we're left with two wrestlers who have dominated the sport for most of the past decade.

Ladies and gentleman, this is the PWI Dream Tournament final. In the corner to your left . . . 6'1", 243 pounds, from Minneapolis . . . he's the six-time NWA World champion and one of the greatest all-around wrestlers in history . . . Ric Flair!



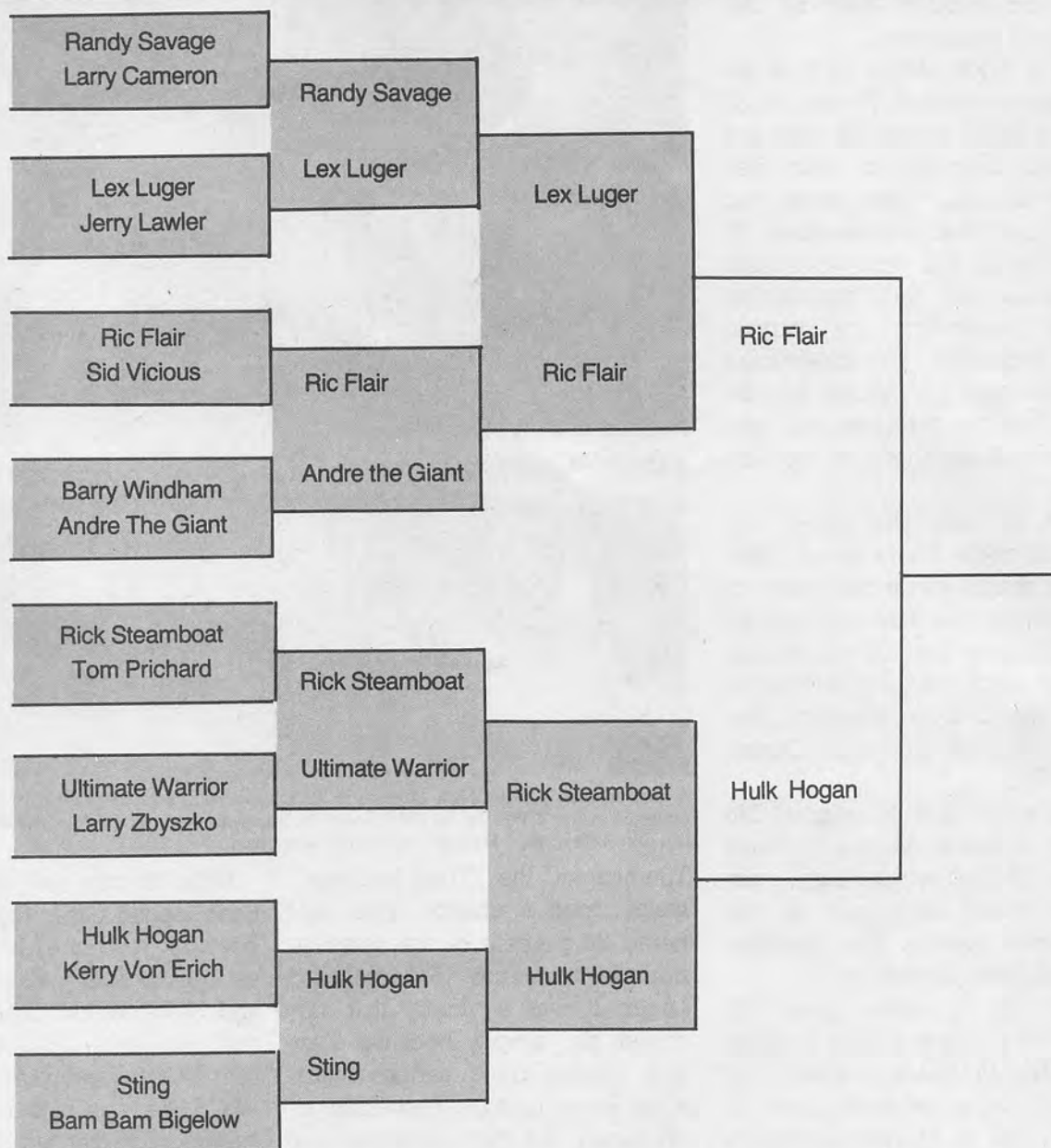
Ric Flair and Lex Luger lock up in the semifinal round of the PWI Dream Tournament. Flair defeated Luger by a surprising 85 percent to 15 percent to advance to the finals against Hulk Hogan, a 78-22 percent semifinal winner over Rick Steamboat.

And, in the corner to your right . . . he stands 6'8", and weighs in at 302 pounds . . . the two-time WWF World champion and possibly the most well-known wrestler in history . . . Hulk Hogan!

Hogan vs. Flair. It's the matchup you've been waiting for, and the one you've determined with your voting for the past seven months. The PWI Dream Tournament has been a rousing success—already



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Additional comments welcome! The deadline for final ballots is **November 20, 1989**. Championship results and comments will be printed in the March 1990 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, on sale January 2, 1990.

Look for semifinal round tag team results and the championship final tag team pairing next month!

nearly 150,000 entrants have been received for the first three rounds—and now you're getting what you decided. After all, this was *your* tournament.

Just a quick review of how the tournament worked. We started off with 16 of the sport's top stars and matched them up for eight first-round matches. There were four quarterfinals and two semifinals. In each round, you were to decide who would win each hypothetical match, accounting for varying styles and skills. You determined the winners, we added up the votes, and the wrestler who won each match advanced to the next round.

Now, it's easy. One match, one name to circle. That's all you have to do: simply circle the name of the wrestler you think will win the championship final, fill out the ballot, and send it to: Dream Tournament Final; c/o *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

**You must pick a winner! No draws or double-disqualifications! Circle the final winner only, even if you didn't participate in the first three rounds. The deadline for ballots is November 20.**

And just to spice things up, we'd like you to use your imagination. After all, this is a *dream* tournament! On a separate piece of paper, give us a brief description of how the match will go. Some of the best comments will be printed when we reveal the winner in the special March 1990 year-end issue of *PWI*, on sale January 2. Next month, we'll present the semifinal round results and championship pairing for the *PWI* Dream Tag Team Tournament.

Now, here are the thrilling results—and your comments!—from the semifinal round:

**Ric Flair def. Lex Luger.** When Flair and Luger feuded in the NWA, Luger came close, but was never able to dethrone the NWA World champion. In our Dream



A confrontation between Hulk Hogan and Rick Steamboat never materialized while both wrestlers competed in the WWF. In the *PWI* Dream Tournament, however, the fans give a clear indication that they believe the "Hulkster" to be the better man.

Tournament, the "Total Package" never stood a chance. Flair garnered 85 percent of the votes as opposed to merely 15 percent for Luger. It was a victory that surprised us, simply because Flair was coming off a serious injury while Luger is in the best shape of his career. But the fans made their decision loud and clear. A sampling of comments:

"Luger has proven time and again that he's no match for Flair," wrote Donna Davies of Poughkeepsie, New York.

"Luger's younger, but Flair has much more skill and intelligence," wrote Jim Surney of Charlotte, North Carolina. "Luger will never be the wrestler Flair is."

"Luger is turning into a great wrestler, but Flair is one of the best in history," wrote Ray Monsees of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. "I'm afraid that Flair simply has too many ways to win."

**Hulk Hogan def. Rick Steamboat.** Hogan easily topped Steamboat, 78 percent to 22 percent, to set up the final matchup of WWF and NWA World champions. We really weren't surprised by this result. When Steamboat was in the WWF, he was in a life-and-death struggle for that federation's secondary title. Hogan, meanwhile, has been on top of the WWF for most of the past five years. A sampling of comments:

"Steamboat may be the better wrestler, but Hulk's a winner," wrote Linda Russell of Toronto. "Hogan's also a lot smarter than people give him credit for, and Steamboat would eventually run out of strategies."

"Hogan's strength and the Hulkamaniacs overcome Steamboat," wrote John Ready of Kenai, Alaska. "Hogan can't be beaten."

In the championship, we'll find out for sure. □



# THIS MONTH IN...



## THE **Wrestler**



**THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS** takes a walk on the **WILDSIDE** . . . and gets mugged!



When two superstars converge, it could be agony for one, ecstasy for the other: **ANDRE THE GIANT** and **ULTIMATE WARRIOR** are at the crossroads!

### PLUS . . .

"Widowmaker" **BARRY WINDHAM** is angry, mean, and unstoppable . . . Memo to manager **TEDDY LONG**: break up **THE SKYSCRAPERS**! . . . **GARY HART** claims: "**THE GREAT MUTA** took the sting out of **STING**!" . . . An in-depth interview with **KEN PATERA** . . . Introducing **SCOTT NORTON**

All this and much more . . .  
in the December 1989 issue of  
*The Wrestler*

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## **SPORTS REVIEW**

## Wrestling



Don't miss our exclusive bonus color coverage of The Great American Bash & SummerSlam '89: it's wrestling's hottest summer!



**THE ROAD WARRIORS'** mighty vow: **THE SKYSCRAPERS** are condemned!

### PLUS . . .

From **PAT PATTERSON** to **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**, it's been a decade of Intercontinental title glory! . . . An exclusive interview with **THE DESTRUCTION CREW** . . . Has the time come for **ANDRE THE GIANT** to retire?

All this and much more . . .  
in the December 1989 issue of  
*Sports Review Wrestling*

**ON SALE NOW!**

## BETWEEN FALLS

(Continued from page 6)



Wahoo McDaniel and Manny Fernandez bloody each other. Reader Maurice Kelly is dismayed that neither man competes in the AWA now.

If the AWA continues to worsen, *PWI* should place the USWA third in the ratings and consider the USWA title a world title. I do.

MAURICE KELLY  
Baltimore

### BRAINS AND BELTS

I'd like to give a big thumbs up to former NWA World tag team champions and current WWF World tag team champions The

Brain Busters. When Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson left The Four Horsemen, a lot of people—including myself—thought it was a bad move, but Tully and Arn proved the critics and former manager J.J. Dillon wrong! I predict a long title reign for The Brain Busters.

TONY KARANTORIS  
Willow Street, PA

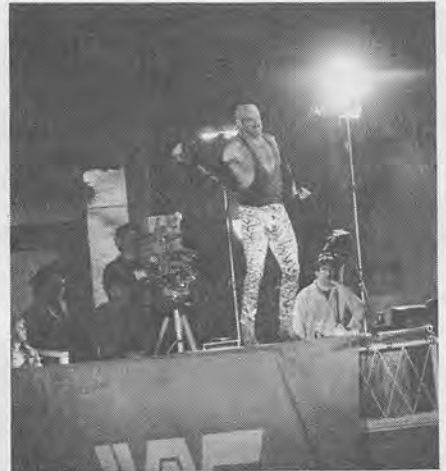
### LET'S SEE MAGEE

Why didn't you list Tom Magee as one of your "10 Truly Awesome Physical Specimens" in your special 10th anniversary issue book of lists? In 1986, he was voted third runner-up to "Rookie of the Year" Lex Luger, finishing just behind Sting. It seems that when Magee left Stampede for the WWF, he disappeared. You could at least run an occasional picture of him for Magee fans.

SANDY PHIPPEN  
Orono, ME



Tom Magee should have been included among the "10 Truly Awesome Physical Specimens" in our 10th anniversary issue, in Sandy Phippen's view. Judging by this photo, Sandy certainly has a point.



Jesse Ventura is defended by reader Luke Thompson, who took exception to a letter downing "The Body" in our October '89 issue.

### JESSE RULES

I am writing in response to the letter by Jeff Roper in the October 1989 issue ("Jealous Jesse"), because I could not believe my eyes when I read it.

First, Mr. Roper said Jesse Ventura was a ridiculous commentator. Jeff, compared to other WWF commentators, Jesse is a breath of fresh air!

He said Jesse called Hulk Hogan a lowlife just because the "Hulkster" made a movie. Get real! Jesse called Hogan a lowlife because, as those of us who saw *No Holds Barred* know, Hogan can't act, yet his movie is being hyped more than any movie with Ventura in it.

Finally, he says Jesse is "despised by everyone." Sorry, Mr. Roper, but you obviously missed *WrestleManias IV and V*, where the crowd gave Jesse a tremendous ovation. If he is hated by everyone, then I guess Hogan is also hated, because he received the same reaction.

LUKE THOMPSON  
Cullowhee, NC

### WHERE'S THE NWA?

I am a big fan of the NWA and have been for a long time. Since Ted Turner took over the NWA,



they have come to Michigan only once this year! Why? When Jim Crockett owned the federation, they would come to Detroit every month, filling Cobo Arena to capacity.

I think I speak for everybody in the state when I say that Detroit fans like me are very upset with the NWA. For now we will have to digest the WWF shows that come through.

T.J. HAIRE  
Warren, MI



Steve Williams displays his enormous power by pressing Terry Gordy overhead. Reader John Couch believes Williams matches up very well against Lex Luger in the strength department.

### **FLEX, LEX**

I beg to differ with the comment made in your October issue about Lex Luger having no good physical challenges in the NWA ("Muscle-For-Muscle, Who's More Awesome—Luger Or Hogan?"). I can name many NWA wrestlers who are in Luger's category. Look at Hawk, Animal, Steve Williams, Rick Steiner, Sting, Dan Spivey, and—especially—Sid Vicious.

I think they would fare very well

physically against Luger. Before you write such an article, think twice before saying something like that.

JOHN COUCH  
Gordon, GA

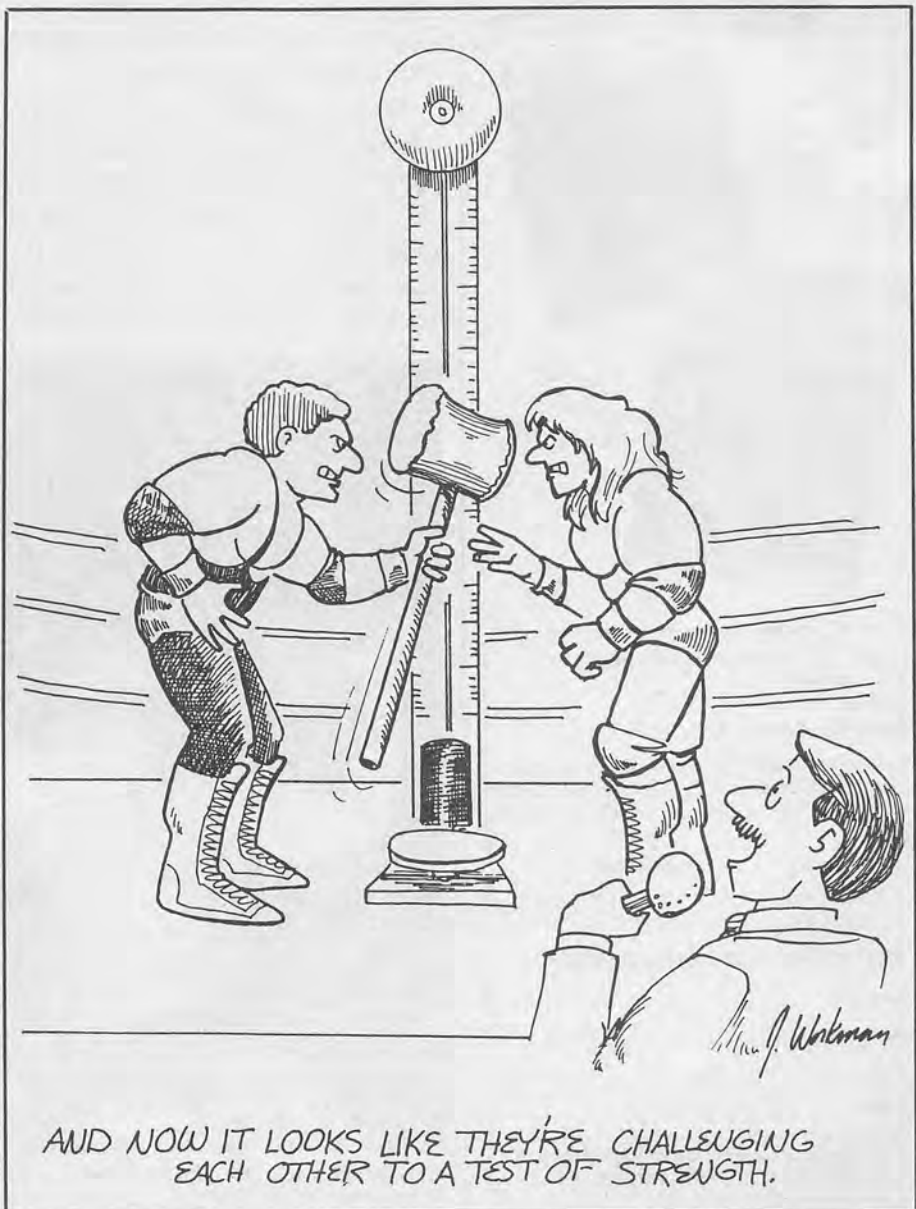
### **DEMO-DISASTER**

I have to comment on the letter written by Jeramie McPeck, "Demos Number One?" which was printed in your November 1989 issue. He thinks Demolition is better than The Road Warriors. I think he's wrong. The Warriors are stronger, faster, and they've teamed longer. Ax and Smash are Road Warrior wanna-bes, just like The Powers of Pain, another WWF team.

Mr. McPeck said Demolition nearly decapitated Brady Boone and Rick Martel. What about the time The Legion of Doom nearly took out Dusty Rhodes' eye and the time they nearly broke Sting's neck? The "Stinger" and Rhodes are far better wrestlers than Boone and Martel.

Also, when the Warriors had the NWA World tag team title, they defended it against worthy contenders. When Demolition won the WWF title they barely got by Strike Force. When the Warriors won they creamed The Midnight Express, a better team than Strike Force.

RANDY GARZA  
Edinburg, TX □

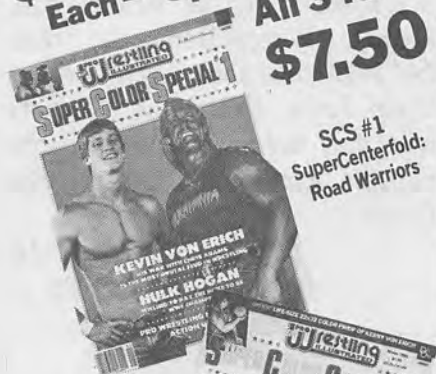


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## NO HOLDS BARRED

(Continued from page 12)

First, the movie. When Hulk Hogan floored Zeus with a series of punches and a devastating clothesline at SummerSlam '89, Vince McMahon must have had a canary. McMahon needs Zeus to stick around and battle Hogan. He plans to air *No Holds Barred* on pay-per-view TV, and would be helped if the real-life version of Hogan vs. Zeus was still going on. Perhaps that's why Hogan and Zeus will be on opposing teams at Survivor Series III on Thanksgiving Day in Chicago.

Of course, McMahon can't fool us. Hogan has already exposed Zeus. He's already proven that Zeus is not unbeatable. Nothing can bring back the dead.

Which brings us to Dusty, whose career was dead before he arrived in the WWF this past summer. Okay, I'll admit it: This was a great career move for Rhodes. He has been extremely well-received by WWF fans. And he's wrestling

like he did a few years ago when he was NWA World champion.

Unfortunately for Dusty and his fans, he'll never win the World championship in the WWF. Even the Intercontinental title is beyond his reach. But Dusty will make plenty of money, pull in plenty of fans, and have a good time. If that fulfills him—and I'm not sure that's enough for a man with an ego as large as Dusty's—who cares?

\*\*\*

*October 1989, Inside Wrestling, Lex Luger on a treadmill to nowhere.*

Now that Luger has easily dispatched former NWA World champions Rick Steamboat and Tommy Rich, he should be in line for a match against current champ Ric Flair. But Flair still hasn't said anything about his vow to never wrestle Luger again, and I'm not sure he will.

Flair is a smart man. He real-



Though Lex Luger was able to defeat Ric Flair while the "Nature Boy" was not champion, Rosenbaum does not believe Lex can win with the NWA World title at stake.



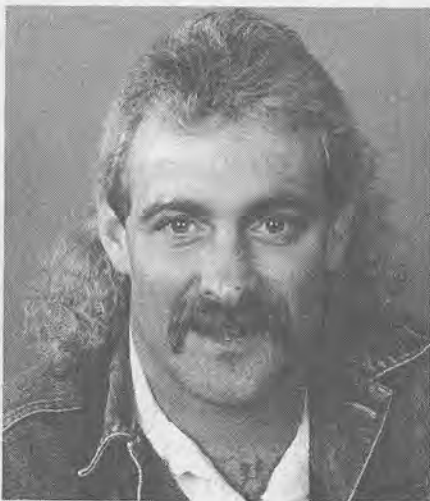
izes that Luger hasn't changed and probably still isn't good enough to win the title. We should also take into account that Flair has been outstanding since returning in late July at the Great American Bash.

I'll stand by my opinion: Lex Luger will never score a clean pin over Ric Flair in a title match.

\*\*\*

And a few impertinent questions to wind things up ...

Isn't **General Skandor Akbar** pushing things by bringing in 7', 320-pound masked man **The Punisher** to go after **Eric Embry**, and isn't it clear that Embry is a clear winner in his feud with Akbar and **Tojo Yamamoto**?



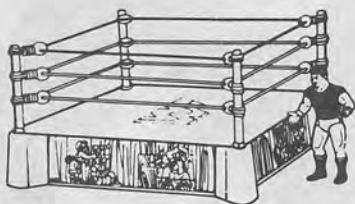
Magnum T.A., who was nearly killed in an automobile accident in 1986, has made the best of his second chance at life. He was to be married days after this issue went to press.

Hasn't life become happy for **Magnum T.A.**, who was scheduled to get married a few days after press time? And isn't it gratifying to see that, even without wrestling, a man like Magnum can go on and live a fulfilling life?

Aren't AWA fans sick of watching **Larry Zbyszko** wrestle **Baron Von Raschke**, and wouldn't a World championship reign by the Baron further devalue the title, which has already been cheapened by Zbyszko?

Isn't **Kevin Sullivan** bound to get involved in the **Robin Green (Fallen Angel)-Rick Steiner** affair? ☐

# WRESTLING WORLD



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## OFF THE TOP ROPE

(Continued from page 20)



Sure, I'd like to see The Ultimate Warrior (left) and Sting (right) reunite as The Blade Runners. The prospect of facing these two young lions might be just what The Road Warriors need to reinvigorate themselves. If the match ever did take place, it'd be the Warriors in a walk, but only if they return to their 1985 form.

for acceptance for who we are. Discrimination is a thing that hurts, and fat people are discriminated against for no other reason except they are fat. If people cannot accept us for who we are, then the world is a poorer place because of it.

I openly challenge Ellner to sit in on a local N.A.A.F.A. meeting and talk to the people there with an open mind, if at all possible. If he is not beyond help, he will change his attitude toward fat people, Dusty Rhodes included, and apologize in writing for all the asinine remarks he has made over the years.

I am enclosing a Heartland membership application that includes national membership information. I hope Ellner and your staff will join, because your magazines are read by many people, and a lot of them are fat like me. Please do not print my phone number.

RONALD HADIUND  
Council Bluffs, IA

Dear Pudgeball,

I must, unfortunately, decline the invitation to join your club. While sitting around with a bunch of self-pitying, face-stuffing beach balls may be fun for some people, I can think of better things to do with my time. Does that make you happy, Ronald? Did my true colors emerge?

The fact is, Jell-O mold, I am very sensitive to the plight of overweight people. Both a close friend of mine and a member of my family suffer from eating disorders, and I realize the seriousness of their plight and the severe physical and emotional consequences of their illness. My beef with Dusty Rhodes has nothing to do with his girth. Two hundred pounds less of Dusty Rhodes wouldn't make him any less of a buffoon. I use his waistline metaphorically, to illustrate what a gigantic disappointment he has become.

And let's call a blob a blob, Ronald: You and your fellow members will certainly admit Dusty could stand to lose

a few. After all the psychoanalytic yakety-yak, if you people kept your mouths shut, laced up some jogging shoes, and worked up a sweat, I think we'd all be happier. Don't you? Incidentally, with annual membership fees holding steady at only \$35 a head, how the hell do you guys afford the buffet bills?

Dear Eddie,

I have thought of the idea of having a Blubber Royal that would include Dusty Rhodes, Abdullah the Butcher, Andre the Giant Idiot, and King Kong Bundy. Who else would you include?

WAYNE MULHEARN

New South Wales, Australia

Dear Wayne,

The Council Bluffs chapter of N.A.A.F.A. would compliment any Blubber Royal.

Dear Mr. Ellner

If The Ultimate Warrior and Sting decide to reunite as The Blade Runners, who do you think would benefit more by switching federations? Should Sting come to the WWF? Or should Ultimate Warrior go to the NWA? Do you think they can defeat The Road Warriors?

JASON AMARI  
Harriman, NY

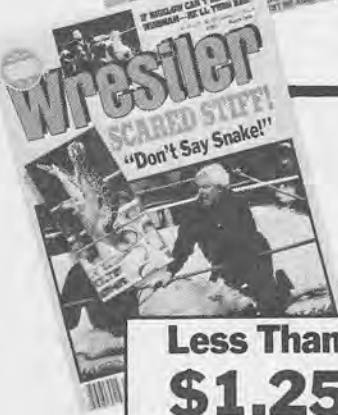
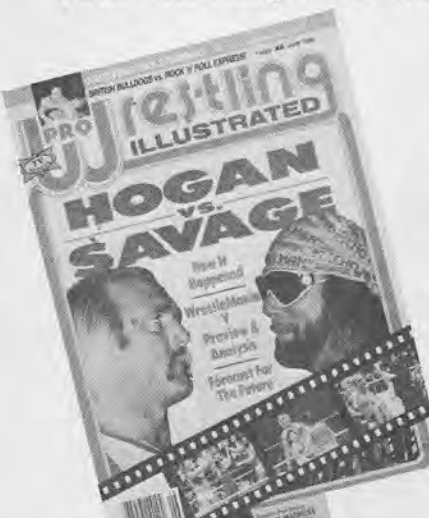
Dear Jason,

As per my introduction, Sting would be better compensated financially if he joined the WWF. We are, of course, all waiting for Ted Turner to leap into the wrestling war with his typical gusto, enthusiasm, and distaste for losing. Until that happens, look for the great talent to continue its pilgrimage northward. The re-tooling of The Blade Runners would be just the motivation necessary for The Road Warriors to regain their edge. In top form they would crush Sting and Ultimate Warrior—the question is whether that top form has deserted The Legion of Doom. □



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## FROM THE DESK OF

(Continued from page 10)



Dusty Rhodes' "plumber skit" on WWF television offended Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks, but one reader was more offended by what he called Saks' high-minded attitude toward the "American Dream."

where you can sit your big fat  
behinds down in comfort, to re-  
lieve yourself of that "dis-stink-tive  
... brown. Ugh!"

If viewing the life of the working  
man is offensive to you, don't  
blame the "American Dream" for  
it; blame your parents, who obvi-  
ously sheltered you from the real  
world. If viewing the life of the  
working man is offensive to you,  
don't turn against Dusty Rhodes,  
the working man's champion, for  
it. Try dealing with the common  
man instead and learn what we're  
all about. Dusty Rhodes has. He's  
not ashamed to represent us, and  
we sure aren't ashamed of him de-  
picting us. Dusty Rhodes is the  
only wrestler I know who knows  
how to get down with the working  
man. Dusty Rhodes is the only  
wrestler I know of who can com-  
municate with the common man  
on the common man's terms.  
Dusty Rhodes is the only wrestler

who has the guts to put his reputa-  
tion on the line by making a video  
that snotty little hotshots find offen-  
sive because our lifestyle doesn't  
match their view of an unrealistic  
world in which we, the working  
men and women, have to live.  
And as the charts show, the work-  
ing man appreciates Dusty  
Rhodes. The "American Dream"  
has been climbing fast in the  
charts. Now this snotty puke,  
whose name is Stuart M. Saks,  
uses his publication to destroy the  
reputation of the only wrestler  
who's willing to represent the  
working man in the squared  
circle.

Mr. Saks, if you have an ounce  
of integrity left in your snotty, ex-  
ecutive body, then do the right  
thing, as you've done in the past,  
before this transgression, and  
make an apology to the working  
man's champion, Dusty Rhodes. If  
you have an ounce of decency left

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up there on that high horse of economic power, make an apology to the working men and women of the world. If you have an ounce of justice left in your high-minded Wall Street attitude, write a retraction and an apology in the next issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*!

David Marks  
A Working Man

It's interesting, David, that yours is the only letter I received objecting to my comments about Dusty Rhodes. Apparently, all the other "working men" out there understood my point.

The person you should be angry with, David, is Dusty Rhodes. When he does a "Son of a Plumber" video in which he acts like a total buffoon, he, in my eyes, is merely making a mockery of the plumbing profession. I know that if he did a "Son of Reporter" video and went around chasing after other wrestlers wearing a hat with a press card on top, I'd be offended.

We are all working men and women. Some do it with their heads and hands, some do it with their heads and fingertips. We either work hard because we have pride in what we do or we work just enough to get by. The color of our collars is irrelevant.

I certainly do not look down upon plumbers, carpenters, electricians, or anybody. I respect and utilize their talents, just as I would hope they'd respect and utilize mine. What Dusty Rhodes did was simply in bad taste. Do children (or anyone) have to see brown splotches on his arms so that they are exposed to the world? If independent manager Dr. Sam Siegel did a "Son of a Doctor" video, must we see him come out of an operation with blood and guts on his arms?

No, Dusty Rhodes is not risking his career to show his support for the working man. The only working man he's interested in is himself. ☐

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## RINGSIDE

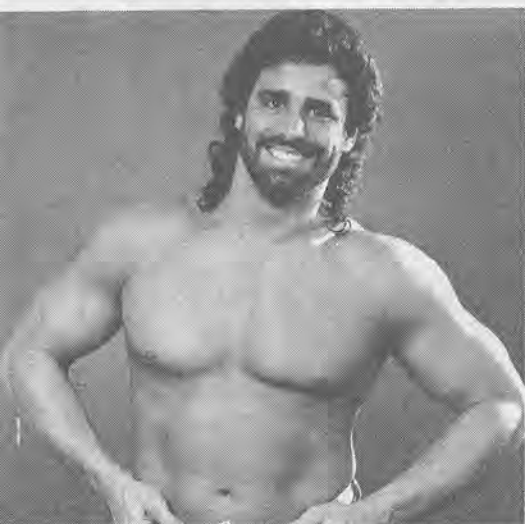
(Continued from page 8)

ly starting to think the girl is nothing but bad news."

The comeback of **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** continues! **Robert Gibson** and **Rick Morton** upset **Wildside**, **Chris Champion** and **Mark Starr**, to win the CWA tag team title on September 11 in Memphis. On the same card, **Black Bart** regained the CWA title from masked newcomer **Texas Dirt** ... Brash rookie **Jonnie Stewart** is negotiating with **Johnny Valiant** to manage him in the AWA.

At press time, former World Class and Florida champion **Al Perez** was negotiating to make his WWF debut. The "Latin Heartthrob" made some surprising comments about **Rick Rude**, another former World Class titleholder. It appears that Perez is perturbed over Rude's claim that he is the sexiest man in the sport.

"Rude thinks he's good looking, but he's one of the ugliest guys I've ever seen," laughed Perez. "I was in World Class around the same time he was, and I never saw the guy land even a single date. Meanwhile, I was always surrounded by a bevy of beauties. If you ask me, the guy's full of hot air. Ain't nobody sexier than I am, and WWF fans will go nuts when they feast their eyes on me."



Former World Class champion and self-proclaimed ladies' man Al Perez is negotiating to come into the WWF, and he has some harsh words for Rick Rude, another heartthrob.

Another newcomer to the WWF is **Big Steel Man**, who is now known as **Tugboat Tyler** ... Although he was soundly defeated by **Hulk Hogan** at SummerSlam '89, **Zeus** is reportedly seeking another chance to wrestle the WWF World champion. The 6'10" monster has petitioned WWF officials for an opportunity to face Hogan's team at this year's Survivor Series, scheduled for Thanksgiving night at the Rosemont Horizon in Chicago ... **Terry Taylor**, also known as **The Red Rooster**, was forced out of WWF rings for about three weeks. He severely injured his knee during his SummerSlam match against **Curt Hennig** August 28.

**Gen. Skandor Akbar's** obsession with driving **Eric Embry** out of the USWA continues. Not only has the Arab upped the bounty on Embry's head to \$100,000, but he also



In his continuing efforts to drive Eric Embry out of Texas, Gen. Skandor Akbar has brought in **The Punisher** and has upped the bounty on Embry's head to \$100,000.

has debuted a 7-foot, 320-pound masked man named **The Punisher**. Akbar claims his latest find will win the Texas title from the flamboyant fan favorite the first time they meet!

"This is the biggest wrestler I've managed since **One Man Gang** and **Bubba Rogers** in my UWF days," boasted Akbar. "There's no way that flabby shrimp Embry will be able to compete with the massive power of **The Punisher**. Embry thinks he's the king of Texas, but he'll be reduced to gutter trash by the time I'm done with him."



Bill Dundee has returned to the CWF, but is hearing boos because he's wrestling as a rule-breaker. Dundee says it's not his fault promoters matched him up with **Wendell Cooley**.

Longtime CWA favorite **Bill Dundee** has returned to the Continental area, but he's shocked his fans by wrestling in a rulebreaking style. The veteran Australian star claims it was the fans that drove him to his change philosophy.

"To hell with 'em," said Dundee of his supporters. "They had a lot of nerve booing me just because the promoters here put me in a match with **Wendell Cooley**. I've always tried to compete by the book, but if the fans are that fickle, who needs 'em?"

Beginning this issue, we are pleased to announce a new addition to the pages of **PWI**. The cartoons of the talented **Jerry Workman** will be run in various spots in each issue, and I'm sure you'll find them as clever and entertaining as we do. Thanks, Jerry, and keep up the good work!

Our congratulations to **Magnum T.A.**, who was to be married on September 14, and **Bruno** and **Carol Sammartino**, who celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary ... **Oliver Humperdink** and **Dallas Page** sold the contracts of **Comrade Busich** and **The Terminator** to **Sonny King** in the FCW area ... **Nord the Barbarian** was suspended in the Pacific Northwest area after a brutal attack on television commentator **Don Koss**.

That's all for now. See you at the matches! □



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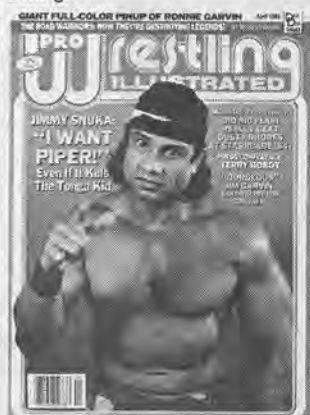
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**October 1985/COLOR PINUP:** Chris Adams, Rick Steamboat, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

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## MIDNIGHT EXPRESS

(Continued from page 47)



Bobby Eaton and Stan Lane execute the "flapjack" against Jim Garvin (above). A weakened Lane stretches to tag out of his predicament against Michael Hayes (below). The Midnight Express has fallen on hard times of late.

world last September by winning the NWA World tag team title from Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson, sending the veteran rulebreakers running from the federation. With that win, the Express became the first team in NWA history to hold the World and U.S. tag titles simultaneously.

Today, Lane and Eaton are still together, but even casual observers are beginning to feel that the team has become a shell of its former self. Wracked with doubt and stung by several devastating losses, Lane and Eaton are showing signs of growing tired of toiling under Cornette's managerial reign, a situation that would have been considered unthinkable just a few months ago.

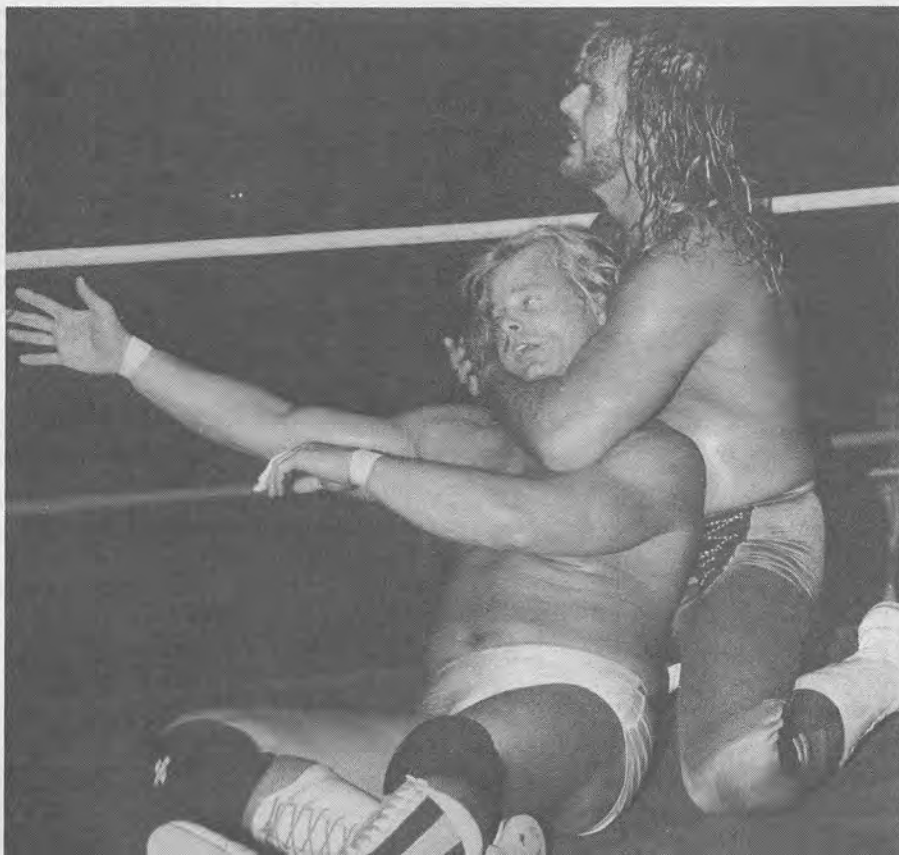
"There's no doubt that Jim's been spreading himself too thin lately," said the quiet Eaton, usually not one to complain. "Half the time, Stan and I

can't even find the guy anymore. When we finally track him down, sometimes there just isn't enough time to work on strategy before important matches. If we're ever going to regain the World title, we've *all* got to set our minds to it—not just me and Stan."

It is clear that Cornette's involvement with side projects has taken away from the Express. After emerging as the winners of a brutal feud against Paul E. Dangerously and his "Original" Midnight Express early in the year, Cornette pulled his team out of the NWA in March for what the manager described as "a period of rest and relaxation."

Cornette and his men returned to wrestling in the early summer, but the brainy young manager also decided to expand his horizons. Cornette accepted an offer to become the regular co-host of TBS' *NWA Power Hour* along with Jim Ross. In addition, The Dynamic Dudes, the young duo of Johnny Ace and Shane Douglas, stunned Cornette by asking him to manage them.

"I was so flattered I couldn't believe it," said Cornette. "Hey, Johnny and







Lane captures Garvin in a toehold (above). The Express has not looked good in their efforts to win back the NWA World tag team title, and Jim Cornette is being blamed. The Dynamic Dudes (top right) could have a lot to smile about in the near future.

Shane show all the signs of becoming a great team. They're extremely versatile, and their skills mesh together really well. But my main concern, as always, is the Express. I couldn't accept the Dudes' offer at this point, but I did agree to advise them whenever they need it. Hey, I'd be dumber than a chicken accepting a date with Frank Purdue to overlook that kind of talent."

Lane and Eaton, however, aren't pleased with their manager's new hobbies. While Cornette has been busy announcing and advising, the Express has suffered several shocking losses, and is in danger of falling out of the tag team top 10. Communication between Cornette and the Express seems strained, as when Lane and Eaton faced huge Sid Vicious and Dan Spivey—The Sky-scrapers—in an August 27 bout in

New Haven, Connecticut. The Express lost.

"I can't help but blame Cornette for our poor showing in that match," complained Lane. "He almost got us disqualified when he ran in the ring to hit Vicious in the back with his tennis racket—and the big lug didn't even flinch, anyway. After that, our whole game plan fell apart. It's just another one of the poor decisions that Jim has made in the last few months—and they seem to be coming with some pretty disturbing frequency, too."

To his credit, Cornette isn't deflecting the heat for his team's string of defeats. In fact, he's more than willing to accept the blame for the Express' woes.

"I have to admit that we haven't been as sharp lately as we're used to being," said Cornette sheepishly. "But, hey, even the best of athletes get into slumps every once in a while. Deep in my heart, I really believe that Stan and Bobby are the finest tag team ever assembled. They're responsible for my proudest moments in this sport, and I'm not gonna let a few bad matches get in the way of us regaining the NWA World tag team title."

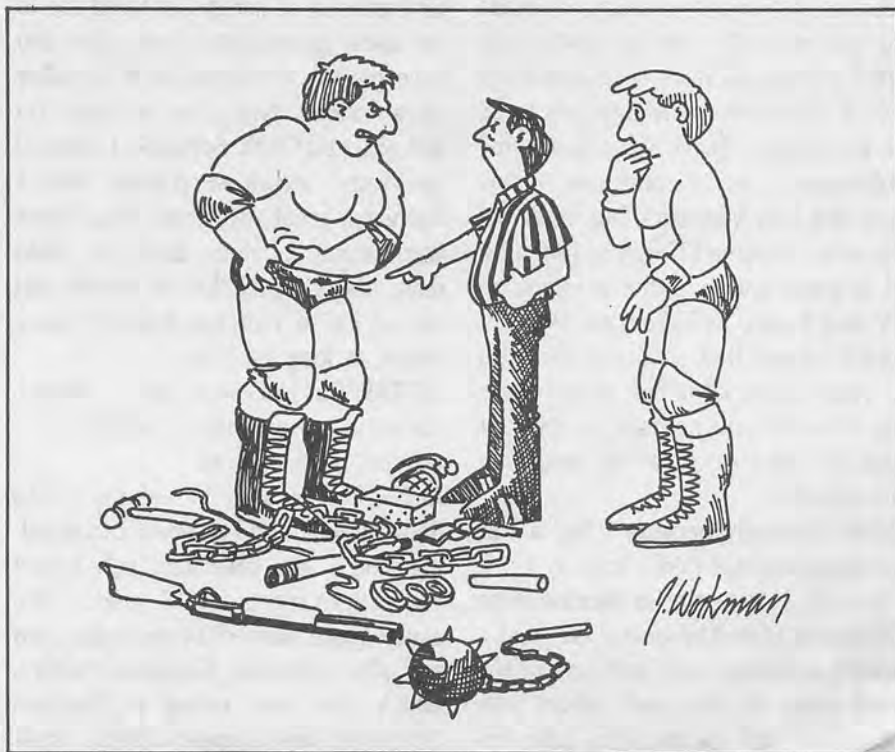
Lane and Eaton may feel differently, however. So far, they've shocked their fans by losing a host of matches



that only a few months ago they would have won handily. Their next move may be to end their relationship with Cornette.

"I'd hate to see it," admitted Eaton, "but we gotta do what's best for us. Hey, me and Stan love the guy, but this is a business. Why have Jim around if he's not going to totally devote himself to our success? If things don't get better soon, you could very possibly see me and Stan go it alone."

That would be the biggest shock of all. □



## PRESS CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 31)



Norman the Lunatic and Ross in a heated locker room exchange. "Don't call me a Lunatic," Norman says. "But that's your name," Ross replies. Sometimes there's more to being a wrestling announcer than just calling the matches.

**ROSS:** That's true. But if there's one thing I'd like the fans to understand, it's that I'm as much of a fan of the sport as they are. If anything has made me successful, it's the fact that I truly enjoy coming to work each and every day. I also really enjoy traveling to all of the arenas. That's what keeps my enthusiasm up. I obviously enjoy watching NWA product, but that's not the only wrestling I'll watch. Like a lot of people, I watch all the wrestling on TV that I can, including the WWF.

**SAKS:** I'd bet that accounts for a lot of your vast knowledge of the sport. But how did you manage to get your foot in the door as a wrestling broadcaster?

**ROSS:** It's really because I had a varied background, I think. Back in 1971, I was in a fraternity at Northeastern Oklahoma State University. We held a benefit wrestling card, and one of the participants in the main event was "Cowboy" Bill Watts, who later be-

came the president of Mid-South Wrestling. He and I developed a rapport right from the beginning, and after I got out of college he hired me to do some promotional work. He also gave me my first break as a wrestling commentator, hiring me to work on the old Mid-South network. I worked as Watts' broadcast partner, and I learned a great deal from him. Those were some fabulous times in those days, and I met a lot of people and saw a lot of matches that I'll never forget as long as I live.

**PETERS:** But you were also a broadcaster in other sports, as well as a referee, weren't you?

**ROSS:** That's right. In college, I had done football and basketball broadcasting, and I also officiated high school and college sports for 18 years. I officiated more state championships than any other official in Oklahoma history, which I'm very proud of because Oklahoma has a great athletic tradi-

tion. I also umpired major league baseball in spring training for the 1976 season.

**APTER:** With all that officiating experience, you would seem pretty qualified to become a pro wrestling referee. Have you ever gotten the urge to put on the striped shirt and step back in the ring?

**ROSS:** I think it's a *little* safer in the broadcast booth, Bill. *(laughs)*

**PETERS:** Often, we receive letters from fans who would like to become broadcasters. What advice do you give aspiring commentators?

**ROSS:** I think you have to pick a role model. I watched the Saturday WTBS *World Championship Wrestling* show with Gordon Solie religiously. Gordon, to me, is the best announcer of all-time. If I can develop my skills to near his level, I'll be really pleased with my position in the sport—I admire Gordon *that* much. I think young announcers today need to pick out somebody that they can listen to as role models, whether it be Gordon, Lance Russell, Bob Caudle, or even color men like Jim Cornette or Jesse Ventura. Another big factor is college. Get a degree in broadcast journalism. Get some experience doing other sports, where you can learn pacing. And with the advent of video recorders, people can do their own play-by-play! You can tape a match, turn the sound down, and call it. That's a great way to improve your skills.

**SAKS:** You've been involved in amateur and professional sports for close to 20 years, so this next question is a natural. If you had to choose one wrestler you think is the epitome of professional wrestling, who would you choose?

**ROSS:** *(pauses)* Wow, there are so many great names to consider. There are a lot of variables to look at, such as who a man has faced, how long he has competed, and all that. But when I think back through the years, I can't think of another man who exudes greatness the way Ric Flair does. He's



definitely the man that all future champions will be measured by. Hey, winning the NWA World championship six times is a great feat, but there is so much more to Flair than just that. It's his training habits and his attitude toward the sport that set him apart in my mind. I'm sure wrestling will never see anyone else quite like him in my lifetime.

**APTER:** Since you're such an admirer of Flair, it's time to put you on the spot. A question we're asked all the time is: Who would win a match between Ric Flair and Hulk Hogan? Who do you think would emerge as the winner?

**ROSS:** Well, I'm biased because I work for the NWA, but even if I didn't, I'd have to say it would be a classic. It would be Hogan's size and power against Flair's finesse and quickness. Obviously, anything could happen, and I think it would be very closely fought. I think Flair would have the decided advantage the longer the match went, but I also truly believe that he would win the match in any circumstances. It'd be close, but "Nature Boy" would come out on top.

**SAKS:** It's been a very promising year for the NWA, and a lot of changes have been made. What do you think the NWA has to do to stay competitive in the wrestling marketplace?

**ROSS:** I think the NWA has to continue to be diligent in getting our TV shows on in every city in the country, and I think we have to get on the best stations in each local market. Plus, the NWA must be the pacesetters in athletic competition in the ring, and in the discovery and development of new talent. That's another thing that's very exciting about our organization right now. We have new stars, like Lex Luger, Sting, Sid Vicious, and The Great Muta, who are young and have great enthusiasm and potential. And I really think that during the past year the NWA has featured some of the greatest matches in history. What makes it even more exciting is realizing that the NWA is only getting started!

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This special feature is for all fans who want to know who won and who lost . . . and how. *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* will print eyewitness reports from correspondents who attend the matches. If you'd like to have your correspondent report printed in the world's largest-selling wrestling magazine, send it to: *Arena Report*; PWI, Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY 11571.

**BALTIMORE ARENA** (Baltimore, MD): The Road Warriors defeated The Samoan Swat Team in a steel cage match . . . Ric Flair downed Terry Funk in a Texas death match . . . Lex Luger pinned Tommy Rich . . . Rick & Scott Steiner defeated Jim Garvin & Michael Hayes by disqualification . . . Sting beat The Great Muta by disqualification . . . Bobby Eaton wrestled Dan Spivey to a double-countout . . . Brian Pillman pinned Norman the Lunatic . . . Rip Morgan & Jack Victory downed The Ding Dongs . . . Ron Simmons destroyed Brad Anderson . . . Randy Rose pinned Al Green.

—Steven Taubenkibel

**CONVENTION HALL** (Wildwood, NJ): Hillbilly Jim beat Akeem by disqualification . . . Tully Blanchard pinned Butch Miller . . . Curt Hennig wrestled Bret Hart to a draw . . . Tim Horner pinned Tom Magee . . . Barry Horowitz upset Jim Powers . . . Terry Taylor downed Steve Lombardi.

—George Pyott

**DOTHAN CIVIC CENTER** (Dothan, AL): Todd Morton defeated Dennis Condrey by disqualification . . . Jerry Stubbs pinned Mike Davis . . . Jimmy Golden & Brian Lee defeated Steve Armstrong & Tracey Smothers for the CWF tag team title . . . Todd Morton wrestled Lou Fabiano to a time-limit draw . . . Thor destroyed Grant Jackson . . . Wendell Cooley battled Dennis Condrey to a double-countout . . . Adrian Street & Miss Linda defeated Terrance Garvin & The Lady Beast by disqualification in a steel cage match.

—Jim & JoAnn Weaver

**FAIRGROUNDS ARENA** (Oklahoma City, OK): Tony Falk upset Sheik Braddock . . . Percy Pringle defeated Gen. Skandor Akbar by disqualification . . . Chris Adams downed P.Y. Chu-Hi by disqualification . . . Matt Borne & Jeff Jarrett beat Al Perez & Gary Young . . . Jimmy Jack Funk defeated Taras Bulba by disqualification.

—Shelly Lambert

**HAGERSTOWN FAIRGROUNDS** (Hagerstown, MD): Ken Patera downed Kamala by disqualification . . . Rick Morton & John Studd (substituting for Robert Gibson) beat Afa & Sika by disqualification . . . Yukon Jack pinned Doug Flex . . . Neil & Doug Superior defeated

Dave Casanova & Rip Sawyer . . . Mr. Ebony destroyed The Assassin . . . Heidi Lee Morgan pinned Roxie Thomas . . . Mr. Ebony won a \$5,000 battle royal.

—Timothy A. Walker

**HAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL** (Hampton, TN): Mr. Wrestling defeated Moondog Spot by disqualification . . . Kim Birchfield & Charlie Peters downed The Interns . . . Chuck Carroll pinned The Blue Demon . . . Stacy Seal destroyed Keith Ingram . . . Thunderfoot beat Cowboy Williams . . . Lou Norris pinned Col. Sam Spade.

—Stephanie Kuhn

**J.F.K. MEMORIAL COLISEUM** (Manchester, NH): Steve Lombardi destroyed Mike Rig . . . Boris Zuhkov thrashed Bob Bradley . . . Jose Luis Rivera pinned Sandy Beach . . . Curt Hennig defeated Paul Roma . . . The Bushwhackers defeated The Warlord & Mr. Fuji by pinfall . . . Jimmy Snuka beat The Honky Tonk Man in a steel cage match.

—Sean Sexton

**KNOTT ARENA** (Emmitsburg, MD): Cheetah Kid wrestled Mike Kaluha to a double-countout . . . Tom Brandi defeated Mike Sharpe by disqualification . . . Silo Sam defeated The Mystery Men in a handicap match . . . Jason & The Assassin downed Larry Winters & Joey Maggs . . . Misty Blue pinned Linda Dallas . . . Bam Bam Bigelow downed Nikolai Volkoff by disqualification . . . The Rock 'n' Roll Express defeated The Fantastics.

—Steve Chamblin

**LANSING CIVIC CENTER** (Lansing, MI): Barry Windham downed Paul Roma . . . Lanny Poffo upset Koko B. Ware . . . Tito Santana battled Rick Martel to a draw . . . The Bushwhackers defeated The Powers of Pain by disqualification . . . Rick Rude pinned Hercules . . . Dusty Rhodes beat Big Bossman by countout.

—Jon Gillum

**MAYWOOD CITY PARK** (Maywood, CA): Stephen DeLeon defeated Rick Ataki by disqualification . . . Bearcat Mantz pinned Jason the Strong . . . The Dutchess of Discipline & Destiny battled Tiffany & Lightning to a double-disqualification . . . The Mercenaries beat Steve Dalton & Alex Knight . . . Susan Sexton pinned Red Flame.

—Ed Ahrens





**MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM** (Nashville, TN): **The Road Warriors** trounced **The Samoan Swat Team** in a steel cage match ... **Ric Flair** pinned **Terry Funk** ... **Lex Luger** downed **Eddie Gilbert** ... **Sting** defeated **The Great Muta** by disqualification ... **Jim Garvin** & **Michael Hayes** beat **The Midnight Express** ... **Rick & Scott Steiner** battled **The Skyscrapers** to a double-countout ... **Brian Pillman** upset **Norman the Lunatic** ... **Brad Armstrong** battled **Ron Simmons** to a draw.

—Ronnie Proffitt & Alan Lowhorn

**PALACE OF AUBURN HILLS** (Detroit, MI): **Tim Horner** defeated **Boris Zuhov** ... **Barry Windham** destroyed **Paul Roma** ... **The Hart Foundation** wrestled **Greg Valentine** & **Dino Bravo** to a draw ... **Curt Hennig** downed **Hercules** ... **Demolition** beat **The Brain Busters** by disqualification ... **Brutus Beefcake** defeated **Rick Rude** by countout ... **The Ultimate Warrior** destroyed **Andre the Giant**.

—Sonny Kennedy

**PROVIDENCE CIVIC CENTER** (Providence, RI): **Tim Horner** pinned **Boris Zuhov** ... **Brutus Beefcake** wrestled **Rick Rude** to a time-limit draw ... **Curt Hennig** beat **Hercules** ... **Jimmy Snuka** destroyed **The Honky Tonk Man** ... **The Bushwhackers** downed **The Powers of Pain** by disqualification ... **Barry Windham** crushed **Paul Roma** ... **Randy Savage** defeated **Hulk Hogan** by countout.

—Michael Lemieux

**RIVERVIEW STADIUM** (Clinton, IA): **Mike George** pinned **Curtis Hughes** ... **Jonnie Stewart** battled **Rhett Bobzien** to a double-countout ... **Col. DeBeers** defeated **Derrick Dukes** when Stewart interfered ... **Tommy Jammer** & **Paul Diamond** defeated **The Destruction Crew** ... **Baron Von Raschke** downed **Larry Zbyszko** by disqualification.

—Chuck Anderson

**RODEO FAIRGROUNDS ARENA** (Denison, TX): **Billy Travis** downed **Tony Falk** ... **Jimmy Jack Funk** & **Matt Borne** defeated **Taras Bulba** & **Sheik Braddock** ... **Eric Embry** & **Percy Pringle** bested **P.Y. Chu-Hi** & **Tojo Yamamoto** ... **Chris Adams** beat **Gary Young** in a Texas death match ... **Kerry Von Erich** defeated **Al Perez** by disqualification.

—Billy Roberts

**THE SPECTRUM** (Philadelphia, PA): **Hulk Hogan** pinned **Randy Savage** ... **The Hart Foundation** beat **Dino Bravo** & **Greg Valentine** ... **The Rockers** defeated **Jacques** & **Raymond Rougeau** in the sudden-death overtime period

of a 60-minute marathon bout ... **Barry Windham** destroyed **Paul Roma** ... **Hercules** battled **Haku** to a double-disqualification ... **Hacksaw Duggan** defeated **Akeem**.

—Mike Barcus

**THE SPORTATORIUM** (Tampa, FL): **Steve Keirn** downed **Dick Slater** ... **Kendall Windham** defeated **Al Perez** by disqualification ... **Ho Chi Win** & **Comrade Busich** beat **Star Rider I** & **Jeff James** ... **Lou Perez** trounced **Jim Backlund** ... **The Italian Stallion** wrestled **Brett Sawyer** to a time-limit draw.

—Charles Bean

**VETERANS MEMORIAL COLISEUM** (New Haven, CT): **Randy Rose** beat **Al Green** ... **Norman the Lunatic** beat **Vince Apollo**, but later lost to **Brian Pillman** ... **Bill Irwin** pinned **Ranger Ross** ... **The Skyscrapers** destroyed **The Midnight Express** ... **Lex Luger** pinned **Tommy Rich** ... **Rick & Scott Steiner** defeated **Jim Garvin** & **Michael Hayes** by disqualification ... **The Road Warriors** downed **The Samoan Swat Team** in a steel cage match ... **Sting** beat **The Great Muta** by disqualification ... **Ric Flair** pinned **Terry Funk**.

—Delores Ruthman

**WAR MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM** (Buffalo, NY): **The Ultimate Warrior** pinned **Andre the Giant** ... **Bad News Brown** destroyed **Mark Young** ... **Terry Taylor** downed **Steve Lombardi** ... **Brutus Beefcake** defeated **Ted DiBiase** by disqualification ... **The Hart Foundation** battled **Greg Valentine** & **Dino Bravo** to a time-limit draw ... **Jacques** & **Raymond Rougeau** defeated **The Rockers** by pinfall.

—Christopher Jaskowiak

**RECAP:** U.S. champion **Lex Luger** had little trouble thwarting the challenge of former NWA World champion **Tommy Rich** throughout the month ... AWA World champion **Larry Zbyszko** didn't score a single clean pinfall during the period ... None of **The Ultimate Warrior's** victories over **Andre the Giant** have taken more than one minute ... **The Rockers** appear to be in a mini-slump, losing several bouts to **Jacques** & **Raymond Rougeau** ... **Brian Pillman** is on a hot streak in the NWA ... Unbelievably, **Percy Pringle** donned the tights several times for USWA singles and tag team bouts ... **Barry "Widowmaker" Windham** is undefeated since returning to the WWF, but only against low-level competition. □

# ★★★★★ WRESTLING

# ENQUILERA

## HOGAN VS. ZEUS AT SURVIVOR SERIES III! Placed On Opposing Teams For Thanksgiving Day Card In Chicago

By STU SAKS

CHICAGO—Hulk Hogan and Zeus will renew their rivalry at the third edition of the WWF's Survivor Series, scheduled for Thanksgiving Day, November 23, at The Rosemont Horizon in Chicago.

Hogan is tentatively scheduled to join Jake Roberts and Demolition in a main event battle against Zeus. The

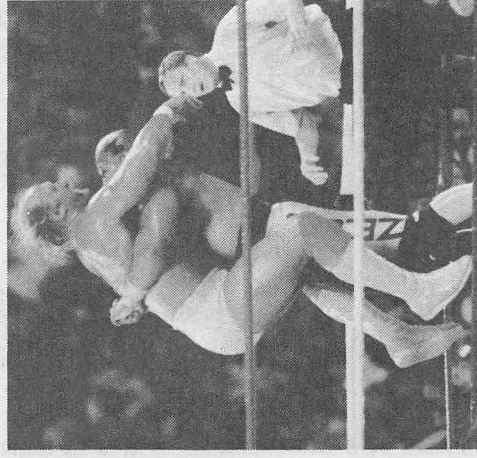
Powers of Pain, and Ted DiBiase.

Hogan, the WWF World champion, teamed with Brutus Beefcake to vanquish the seemingly invincible Zeus and Randy Savage at SummerSlam '89. Zeus seemed impervious to pain until Hogan dazzled him with a series of right hands and floored him with a clothesline before scoring a remarkable pin.

That loss appeared to have sent Zeus scurrying from the WWF. At press time, he had not appeared on WWF TV or at arena shows since SummerSlam. But it now appears as if Zeus, who calls himself "The Human Wrecking Machine," has not surrendered to the "Hulkster." Though, according to WWF sources, his request for a singles match against Hogan was

refused.

Team captains and matchups have been named for the Survivor Series undercard. It includes Randy Savage's team vs. Hacksaw Duggan's team; Roddy Piper's team vs. Rick Rude's team; Dusty Rhodes' team vs. Big Bossman's team; and Ultimate Warrior's team vs. a team managed by Bobby Heenan.



Zeus bearhugs Hulk Hogan at SummerSlam. Zeus and Hogan are scheduled to face off again at The Survivor Series.



# Gilbert: I Want More!

By BILL APTER  
ATLANTA—NWA officials thought they did Eddie Gilbert a favor by offering him a shot at U.S. champion Lex Luger when Tommy Rich failed to appear for a card in Memphis. Instead, they may have created a monster.



Eddie Gilbert is demanding more matches against U.S. champion Lex Luger.

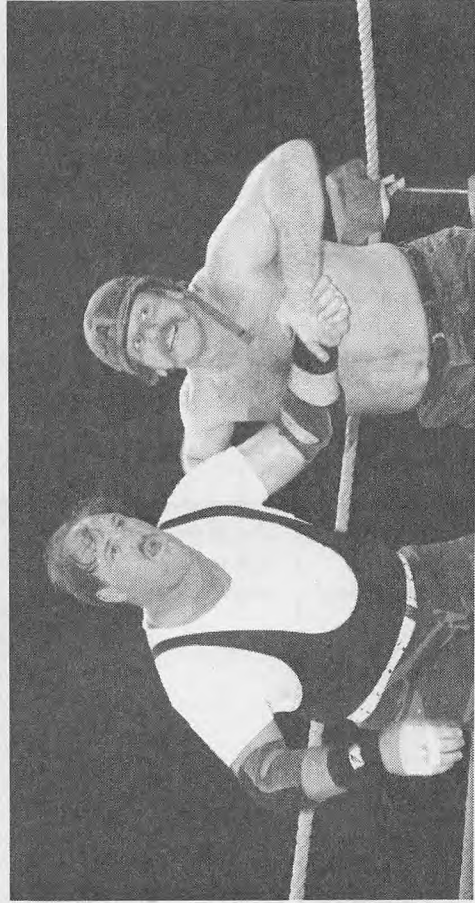
"That match just reminded me of the way I've been used," Gilbert complained. "I've been around here long enough and I've done enough that I shouldn't need to be handed gifts. I don't want to fill in for somebody just because the promoters are desperate and have to save face. I want title shots of my own."

Gilbert's performance against Luger appeared sufficient to warrant future consideration. "Hot Stuff" turned in an outstanding display of scientific wrestling and had Luger on the run for most of the match. But Gilbert came up short when Luger rolled through a pin attempt and held Gilbert's trunks for the pin.

"Yeah, he was good," Luger said grudgingly after the match, "but he wasn't good enough."

In Gilbert's mind, however, Luger is afraid of a rematch. "He knows I can beat him," Gilbert said, "and I'll go to any lengths to get a rematch. The people around here are about to see another side of Eddie Gilbert."

# America's Team In Turmoil



Col. DeBeers slings Sgt. Slaughter across the ring. The fact that DeBeers and Slaughter are on the same team in the AWA's Team Challenge Series has created quite a problem.

By CRAIG PETERS

MINNEAPOLIS—Opening day in the AWA's Team Challenge Series was still weeks away, but there was already turmoil on America's Team.

The team is captained by Sgt. Slaughter and includes Col. DeBeers, the evil South African madman who is violently anti-American. In an exclusive interview with *The Enquirer*, DeBeers vowed to "bring down any wrestlers that are opposed to my country's

apartheid system of government, and that includes Slaughter."

"Slaughter stands for the American way and Americans showed where they stand 100 years ago," DeBeers said.

DeBeers refused to help Slaughter and asked for a trade to The Living Legends, captained by Larry Zbyszko.

"Zbyszko's American, but at least he knows the way things are," DeBeers said. "And if I can't get a trade, I'll form South Africa's team!"

## War Between The Fullers Erupts

By BOB SMITH

BIRMINGHAM, AL—There's no brotherly love in the Continental Wrestling Federation. Robert Fuller, head of the Stud Stable, is at war with his brother, Ron Fuller.

"I've seen enough!" Ron said at an impromptu press conference. "The Fuller name used to mean something to be proud of, but now all it means is cheating, lying, and bad wrestling. I'd just like to say that I've come out of retirement and I plan to teach my brother a lesson. It's not something I

want to do, but I have no choice."

Ron, however, ran into an unexpected roadblock: Downtown Bruno Bruno, who manages the Stud Stable, told Ron that he would first have to wrestle his new man, Black Barbarian, before getting a shot at Robert.

"It don't matter," Ron said. "Nothing's going to get between me and my brother. This is something we have to have out together, and if I have to teach him a lesson, I will. The Stud Stable must be stopped!"

## AROUND THE GLOBE

### TOKYO, JAPAN

A sellout crowd packed Korakuen Hall here on August 24 to honor Lioness Asuka, who officially retired from Japanese women's wrestling. Asuka, who formed The Crush Gals with Chigusa Nagayo, wrestled a pair of five-minute exhibition matches against Noriyo Tateno, a former Jumping Bomb Angel, and Jaguar Yokota, who had retired nearly four years earlier. Asuka, who had reached the mandatory retirement age of 26, thanked the fans for their support during an emotional ceremony. "She has the courage of a lion," said Kiko Toshigama, a fan in attendance. "That is why they call her Lioness."

### CALGARY, ALBERTA

Stampede promoter Stu Hart is at war with his nephew, Hugh Hart. The feud is an extension of Stu's lifelong problems with his brother, Lou Hart. Hugh is the son of Lou, and brought in a team called The Blackharts to rid Stampede of Stu's family of wrestlers. Stu, however, is fighting back and trying to secure the contracts of the wrestlers in the Stampede area. "With Lou and Hugh, you never know what they're going to do," Stu said. "The day he crossed me he's going to rue."

### GRENOBLE, FRANCE

The latest actions of Andre the Giant have further enraged the citizens of this French city. Andre, who was born in Grenoble, was recently arrested in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for simple assault and criminal mischief. "He has embarrassed us again," said Pierre Lafite, former President of the Andre the Giant Fan Club in Grenoble. "He must stop before he ruins Grenoble forever."

# THE PWI POLL

Each month, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* will conduct a poll on a controversial issue in the sport today. The results present a multifaceted view of public opinion that offers valuable insights into the views of your fellow fans

## THE SUBJECT: FOREIGN OBJECTS

ONE OF THE biggest problems that has faced wrestling officials in recent years has been the increased use of foreign objects. In fact, some wrestlers employ them so often that they openly brandish their instruments of destruction en route to the ring.

In many cases, wrestlers and their weapons are closely associated. Terry Funk always heads for the squared circle armed with a branding iron. Hacksaw Duggan's 2x4 has become his trademark. P.Y. Chu-Hi is never seen without a kendo stick; the same can be said for Big Bossman and his nightstick and handcuffs.

PWI readers, however, are disturbed by the increasingly common use of foreign objects. A poll of 1,000 PWI subscribers (culled from subscription lists; statistical margin of error plus or minus three percent) revealed many fans believe more wrestlers should be disqualified for their use, but stopped short of calling for suspensions for such infractions.

A decisive 74 percent of those polled believed use of illegal weapons has become too common. Sixty-three percent of the poll respondents felt that wrestlers caught with foreign objects should be immediately disqualified. Conversely, 20 percent did not think disqualifications should always be levied, since in many cases an opponent can gain control of the object and be disqualified unfairly.

While it was clear that readers were concerned about the use of metal and wooden objects, their use does not call for suspensions, at least not in the eyes of a slight majority of the fans. While 42 percent believed that outright banishments were too harsh a punishment, 39 percent of the respondents thought that suspensions were in order. Also, 56 percent of fans polled did not feel that champions caught using foreign objects should be stripped of their titles.

Also, 55 percent of those polled objected to the premise that all wrestlers be searched before

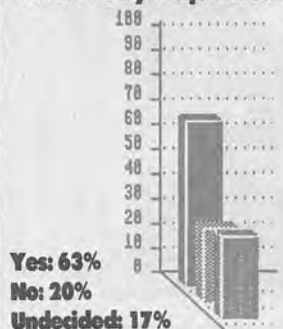
each bout. Thirty-three percent, however, thought that more thorough searches of wrestlers' boots and tights would prevent the use of small objects, such as chains and metal rods.

One of the most mysterious tactics used by rulebreakers have been fogs and mists, blown at opponents by such stars as The Great Muta and The Grappler. Although officials have been slow to disqualify grapplers for using fogs, a whopping 61 percent of fans polled believed that mists should be placed in the same category as foreign objects, and therefore result in DQs. □

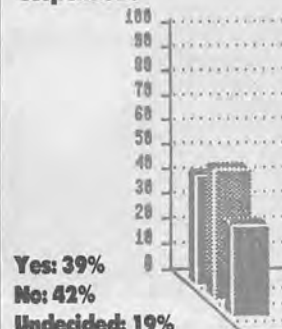
**Are foreign objects becoming too prevalent?**



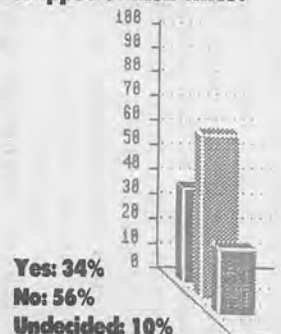
**Should wrestlers caught with weapons be immediately disqualified?**



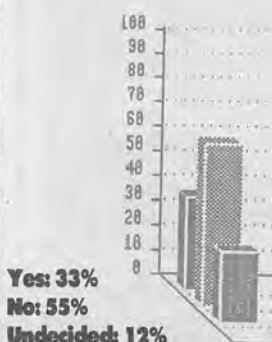
**Should wrestlers caught with weapons be suspended?**



**Should champions caught using foreign objects be stripped of their titles?**



**Should all wrestlers be searched before bouts?**



**Do you consider fogs and mists foreign objects?**





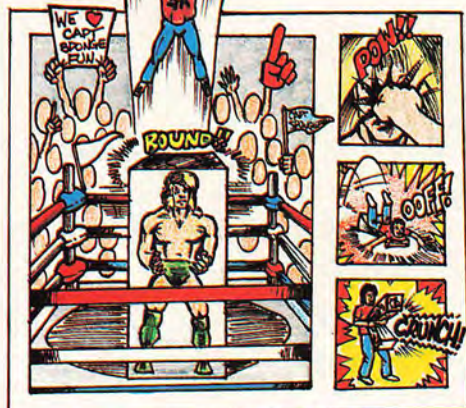
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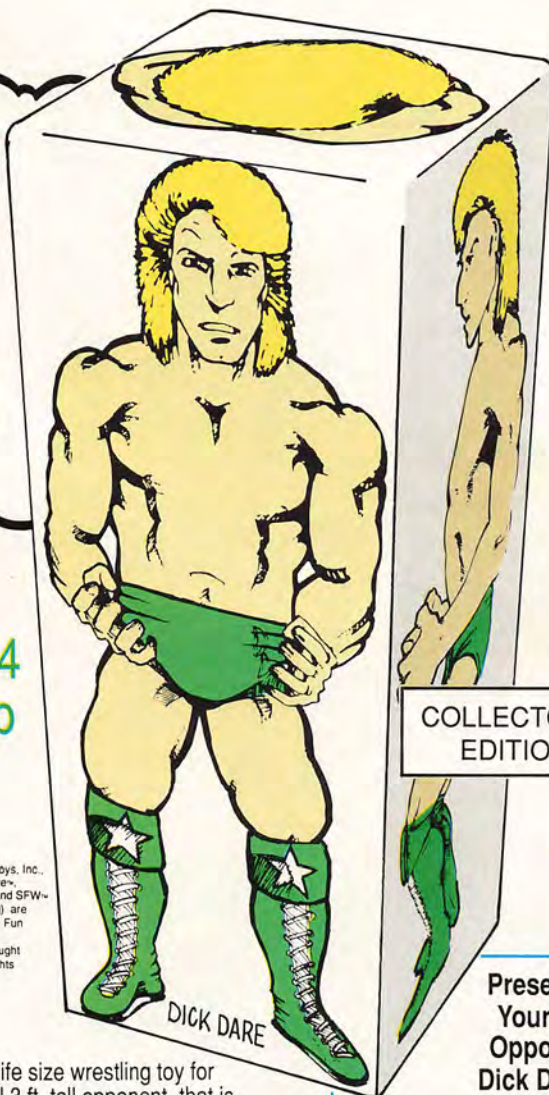
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